

THE ARCHITECT & BUILDING NEWS

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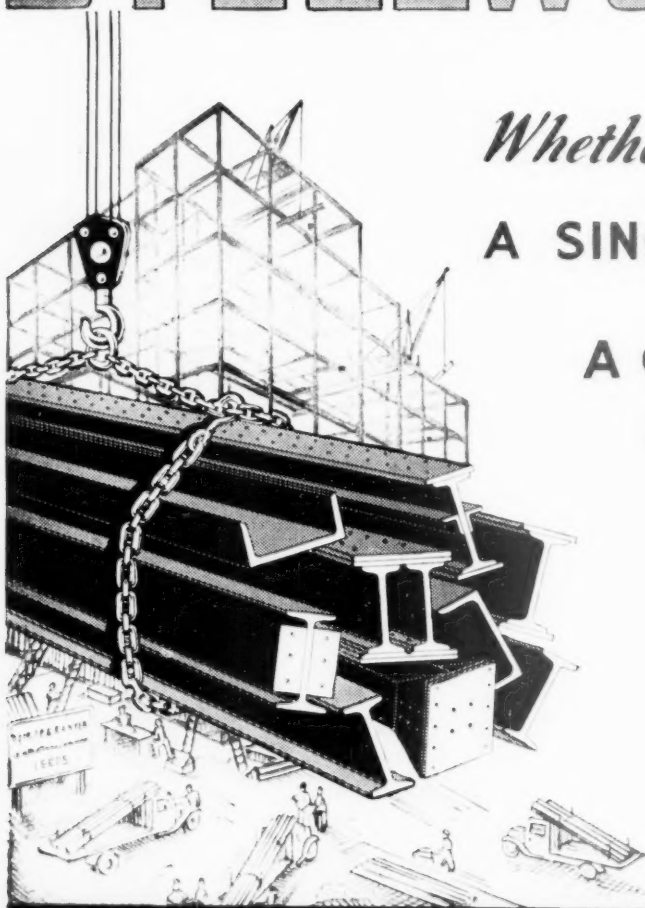
FEBRUARY 28, 1952

VOL. 201

NO. 4341

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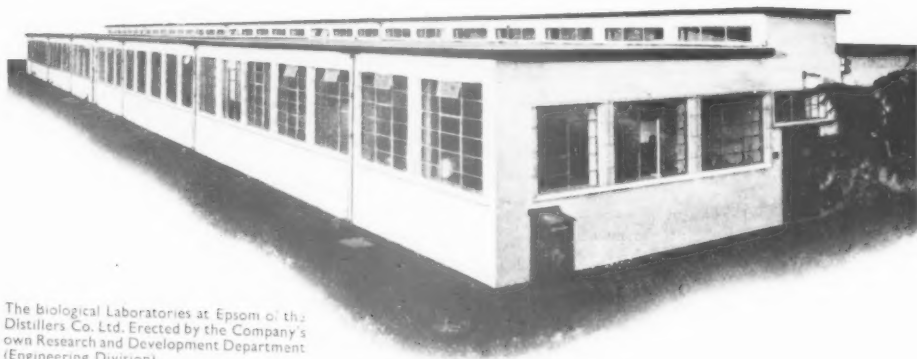
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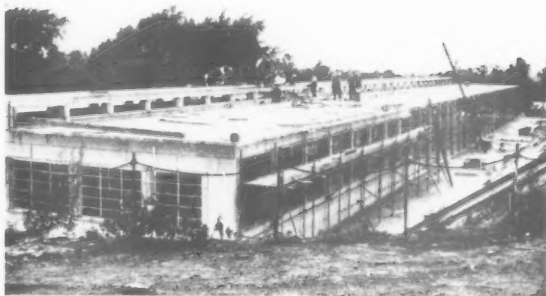
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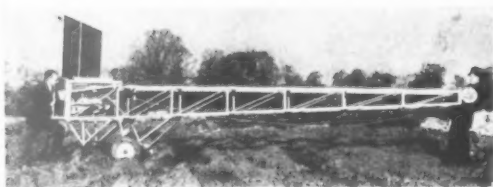
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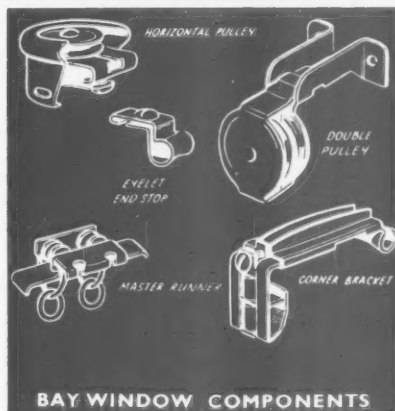
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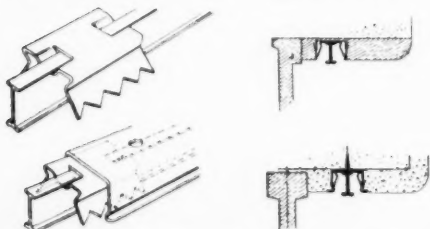
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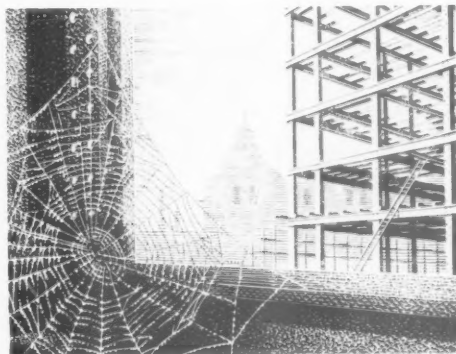
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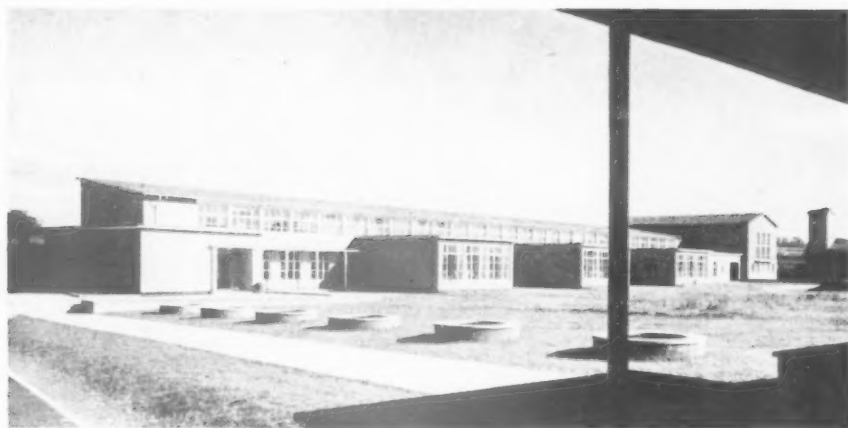
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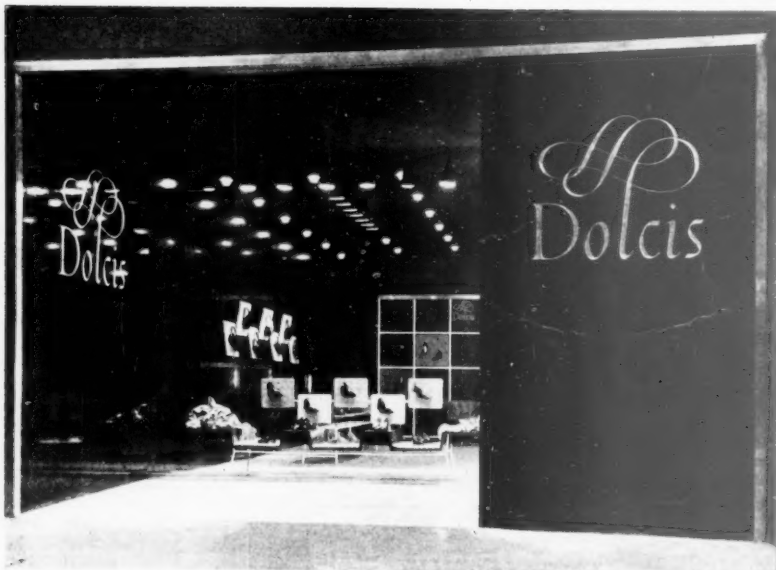
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**KNOWLE BATTERY
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(featured in this issue)

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Contractors: Staverton Builders Ltd.

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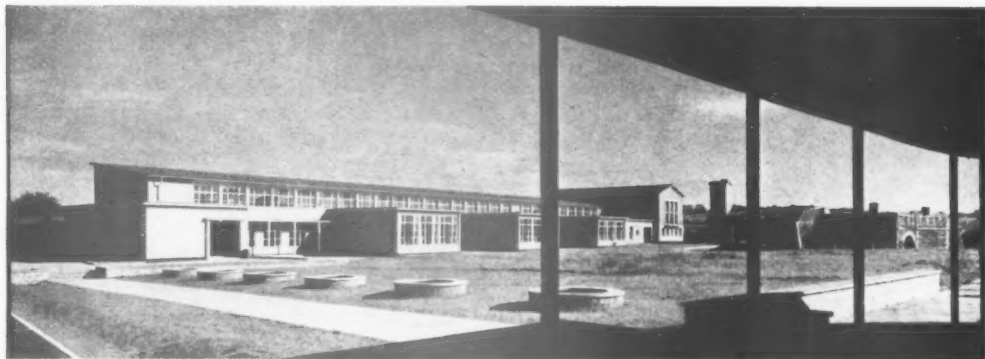
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"Architect & Building News" Photograph

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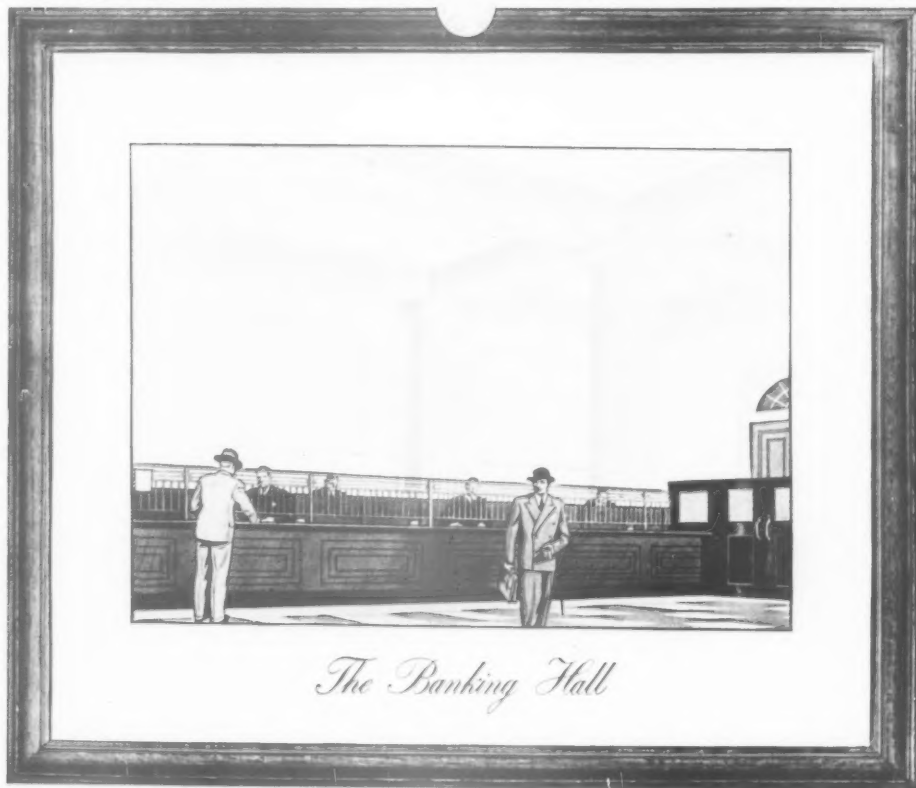
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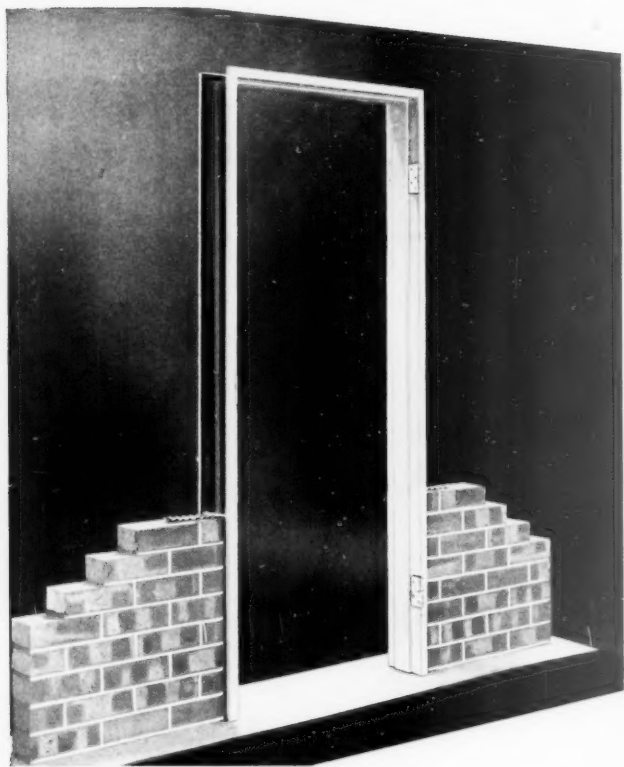
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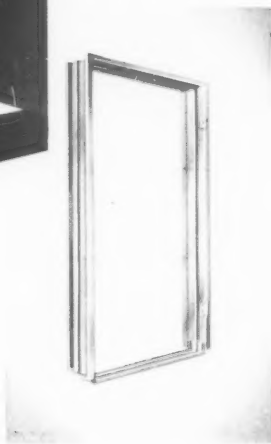
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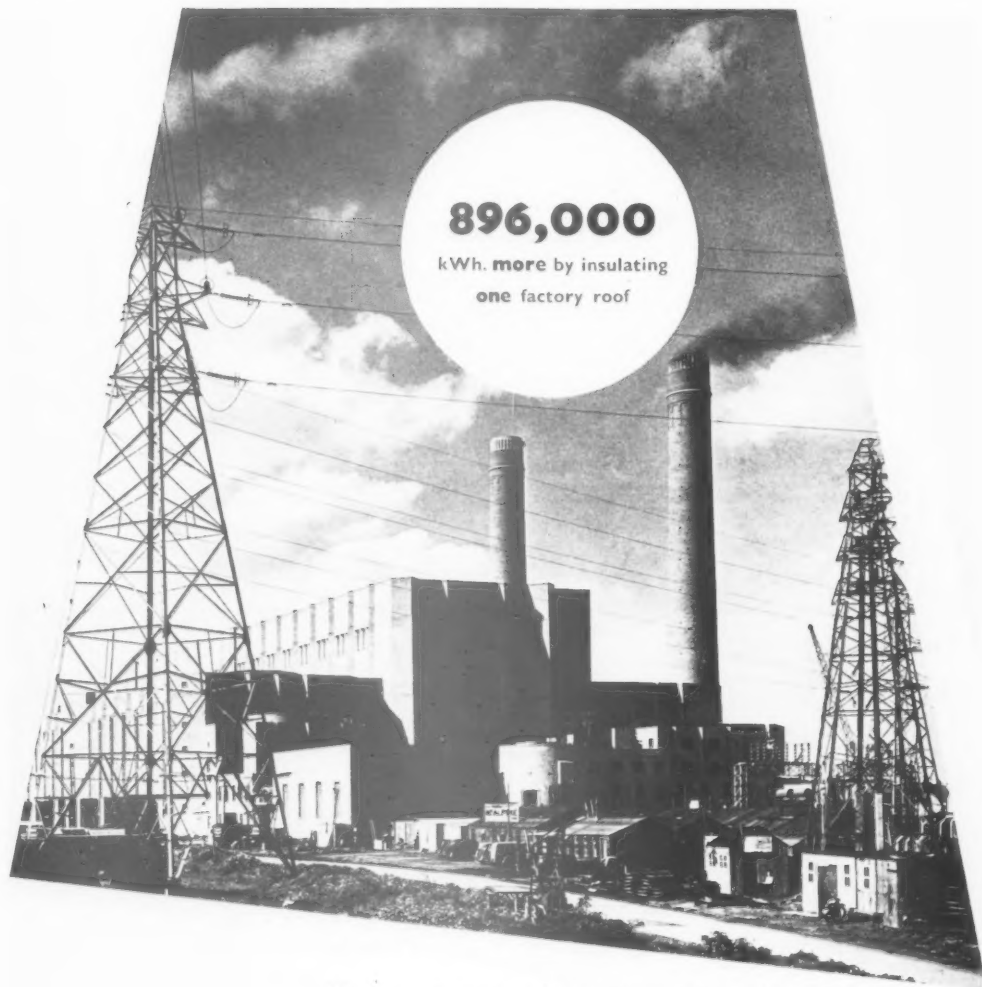


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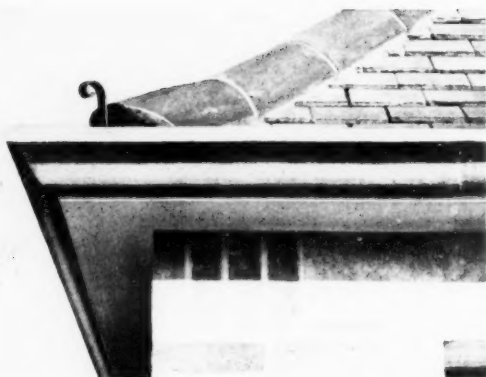
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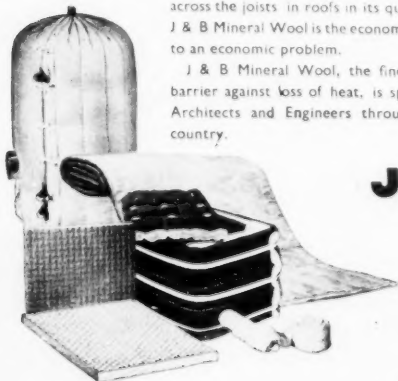
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THE ARCHITECT & BUILDING NEWS

February 28, 1952

The "Architect and Building News" incorporates the "Architect," founded in 1869, and the "Building News," founded in 1854. The annual subscription, inland and overseas, is £2 15s. 0d. post paid; U.S.A. and Canada \$9.00. Published by ILLIFFE & SONS LTD., DORSET HOUSE, STAMFORD STREET, LONDON, S.E.1. Telephone: WATERLOO 3333 (50 lines). Telegrams: "ARCHITONIA, SEDIST, LONDON."

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NEW HOUSING UNDER LICENCE

THE recent circular issued by the Minister of Local Government and Housing on the subject of houses to be built under licence contains a very mixed assortment of "administrative suggestions." The points made regarding the selection of sites and some other connected matters for houses to be built under licence (that is by private enterprise) are useful enough, but there are a number of implications which being slightly under the surface are not so readily seen or foreseen.

For instance, where a builder erects a number of houses under a "block licence" he must ensure that the Local Authority approves the prospective occupants of the houses. (We suppose that the L.A.s fix the rentals and/or purchase prices as they have power to do with other cases.) In addition, the Local Authority must be satisfied that the granting of such licences will not dislocate their own building programmes, especially during good summer building periods. Are the attempted safeguards and provisos sufficient to stop "wangling" and the introduction of a "black" (or "grey") market in materials and components?

The Minister's proposals are all aimed apparently at increasing the speed of house-building (which is certainly too slow at the moment) and, apart from maximum licences and a somewhat vague adherence to certain standards, cost of house-building takes a second place.

Block schemes and licences involve not only the design of houses but the layout of sites and even "estates." The Minister's communications have, so far, not included any recommendations to Local Authorities or those wishing to build under licence for the employment of competent technical advice—architects or planners—though he has, in the past,

emphasized the importance of so doing for all subsidized schemes. Is this one of the ways that houses built under licences are to be reduced in cost? If so, what becomes of standards in house design or the proper planning of sites and housing areas? The lessons of the inter-war years, visually demonstrated on the outskirts of most of our larger towns, should point the issue reasonably clearly even to he who runs fast.

We should have thought that the small amount by which the reduced standard housing fees of architects (or the salaries of publicly employed architects) increase the cost of development would be worth while in any attempt to retain tidiness and order and a modicum of taste; unless, of course, this is another blow from some, as yet, vaguely seen axe that is being applied to the roots of the Planning Act. Architects have made a great contribution to housing in post-war years and some of it has been given without even expectation or receipt of fees; there should be no Government Department better acquainted with this fact than that over which the Minister presides.

We note also, in connection with the new housing drive, that the first Regional Housing Production Boards have been set up. They have no independent architects, surveyors or engineers included in their membership. The latter consists of building employers and employees and the local representatives of three Ministries. The terms of reference state that the Board is "to bring all those concerned in house-building . . . into closer consultation . . . etc." (see issue of Feb. 21 p. 218, for full quotation). Again the architect and the planner conversant with the post-war housing problems in this country is left out. Why?

E



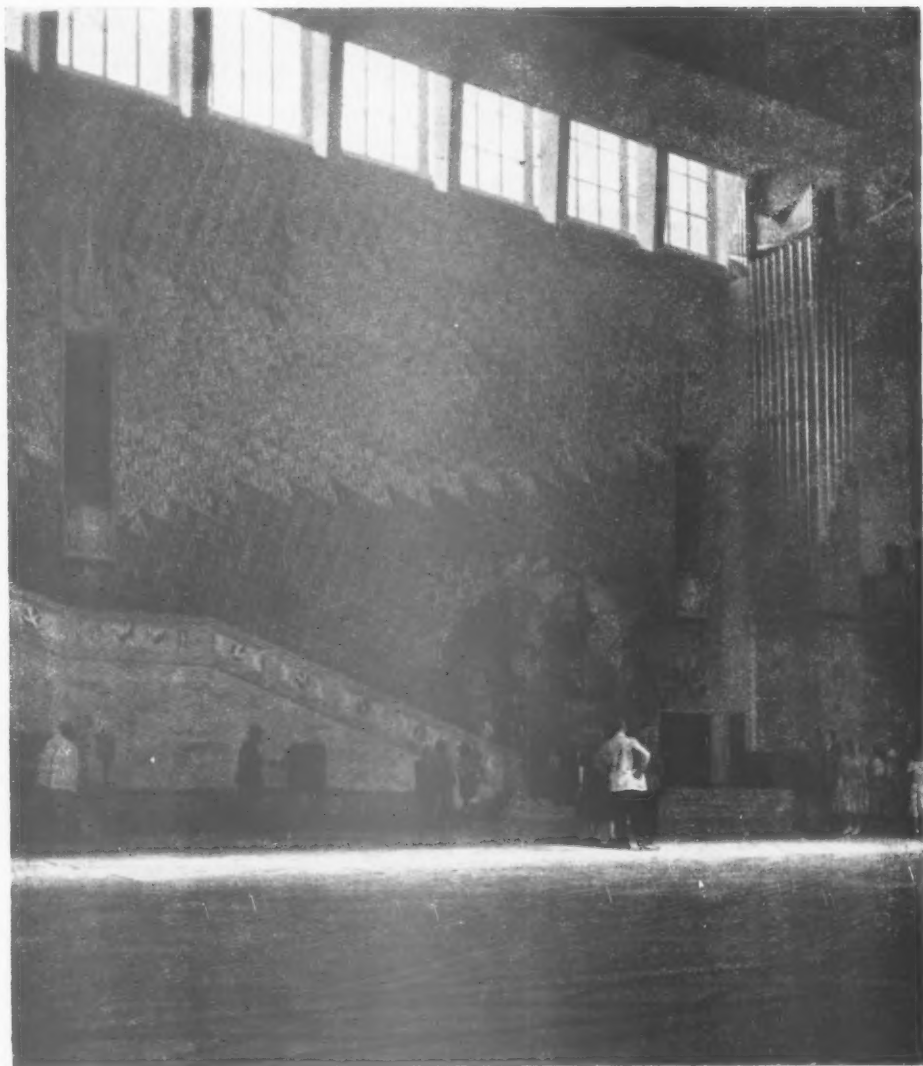
OSLO TOWN HALL

Looking from the steps leading down to the formal garden to the West of the Town Hall. On a summer's day with the beds of bright coloured flowers, the magnificent view of the fjord beyond, the fountains playing and people strolling about, this scene is one to be remembered. The dark red bricks used are larger than those used here; the marble facing is a pleasant grey colour.

Photos and notes by Norman Westwood



A detail of sculpture on the East side of the main building.



ARCHITECTS: ARNSTEIN ARNEBERG & MAGNUS POULSSON

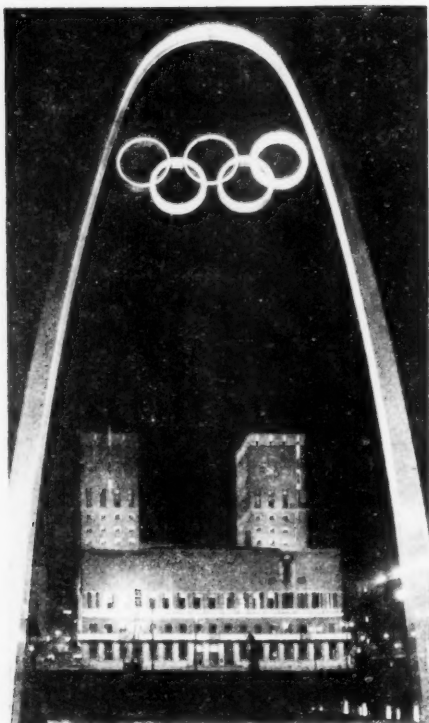
The interior of the main hall showing the ceremonial staircase. The predominant colours used for the wall fresco shown are greens, orange and ochre. The floor and stair are faced with shades of grey polished marble.

EVENTS AND COMMENTS

UNFAIR TO ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

The Director and Secretary of the Electrical Contractors' Association in a letter on page 250 says that some of my statement on this page on February 7 was untrue. I said then that contracting by electrical undertakings only became objectionable when the industry was nationalized.

I evidently did not make myself clear on this point for what I meant was that from an architect's point of view there seemed to me to be no objection to private electrical undertakings competing with electrical contractors but every objection to Government undertakings competing with private enterprise. This is quite beside the point that electrical contractors object to competition from power



companies under any ownership. I am sorry that my intention was not clear.

OSLO TOWN HALL

I do not think that the Oslo and Stockholm town halls will ever be mentioned in the same breath, but the Oslo building is at least a monument to Norwegian tenacity of purpose. I believe that it was designed as long ago as 1936 and only completed last year. Norwegian sculptors have had a high old time with it, as Norman Westwood's photographs show. The night picture, not by Westwood, shows the building framed in the Olympic winter games sign.

THE MAGAZINE OF BUILDING

There has been some confusion, in my mind at least, about the name of the Architectural Forum lately. Suddenly it took to calling itself the Magazine of Building. This seemed an unnecessary change from a good name. The reason for the change is now clearer for the Magazine of Building is appearing in two editions, Architectural Forum and House and Home. The first editorial to the latter makes it clear that it is in no sense a housewives' or dilettante decorators' glossy by saying that it is "conceived, written and edited for professionals—for those whose calling and life work it is to design, finance, build, or supply materials for, houses . . . If others find it useful to read over the professional's shoulder they are welcome, but this is no primer for laymen." There is much more than that in the editorial which rolls on like the trailer of almost any American film. Only the heroic music is

missing. I suppose that it is high time that we became used to this hard-hitting call to the emotions type of thing or is it a sign of our laziness that we do not at once, on reading it, leap through the window and start digging foundations in the garden. The editorial appears on page 107 and ends on page 166, out of a total of 210 pages. Nice work by the advertising department. The stuff in the magazine is interesting enough but I already detect a fall in the familiar high standard of architecture which one has associated with this magazine for so long. This is a great pity. Let us hope that the other half of the Magazine of Building will not go the same way.

Some of the advertisements are technically interesting but the one that stopped me was a two-page spread showing a girl fully clothed from the navel down and fully unclothed from the navel up. The precise meaning of this quaint but charming demonstration escaped me but it was something to do with whole house heating.

OLD BRISTOL

Mr. Lance Wright has contributed the latest addition to the Compton-Dando series on Old Towns. He was particularly well suited to the task as he is architecturally very much connected with Bristol, being registrar of the Royal West of England Academy School of Architecture, and a lecturer there in the History of Mediaeval Architecture. He is, furthermore, a lecturer in Contemporary Design in Architecture for the Extra-Mural department of the University of Bristol, Honorary Editor of the Journal of the Bristol Society of Architects, and Honorary Secretary of the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Bristol.

"Old Bristol" is a slim volume of twenty-four pages of text and has seventeen whole-page photographs, all of which are first-class. It is not a guide but would form a valuable addition to the collection of a visitor to the city as it gives a picture of the original town around which modern Bristol has grown. It is nicely produced in a stiff paper cover which serves to remind us of how little in solid book we may now expect for 3s 6d.

FOIRE DE PARIS

I am busy trying to think up some good reason why I should be granted a business currency allowance to visit the Foire de Paris which opens on May 17. It is some show and covers 125 acres, has ten thousand, seven hundred and fifty exhibitors and, last year, had two and a half million visitors. It is largely French, although there are large international sections. I went some years ago and was horrified at the miserable British official contribution. Other countries were well represented. There are some huge buildings but much of the fair is in the open. My clearest memory of the open part is an enormous loud-speaker which almost blew one from the exhibition with its non-stop announcements. The building section was mainly confined to small pre-fabricated houses and sheds but there was a large and very interesting plant section. Building equipment was also very well covered. If you decide to go, whatever your business, do not fail to see the toys and to visit the food section where samples of the most delicious things can be eaten very cheaply. If you are thinking of going to Paris anyway I advise you to book accommodation early should your visit coincide with the fair which runs from May 17 to June 2.

IDEAL HOME EXHIBITION

The organizers have been more than usually busy thinking up ideas this year and the result is a "Hall of Sleep"

with bedrooms through the ages. It will finish up with a modern scientifically designed mattress being bounced on all day by a 16-stone mechanical man. I imagine that anyone who smiles at this will be asked to leave at once. Next there will be the illustrated history of smoking, not forgetting the history of cigarette cards. This section leads finally to a machine which makes and packs 1,200 cigarettes a minute. The annual fashion parade is to be staged "in the little garden at St. Paul's Cathedral"—and serve them both right. The usual group of houses will, this year, stand round a village green with a 500-year-old sandstone pillar uprooted from a Warwickshire village at its centre. The fact that the pillar is to be returned to Warwickshire after the exhibition provides an admirable chance to ask "was your journey really necessary?" Mr. Macmillan's new "People's House" will be on view. Upstairs you will find, says the handout, "a combined bathroom and toilet." I wonder where the w.c. is?

MODERN SWEDISH ARCHITECTURE

The exhibition of Modern Swedish Architecture arranged by the S.A.R. is to be opened at the Building Centre by H.E. the Swedish Ambassador to-morrow afternoon. It will be open to the public on Saturday morning at 9.30 till 1 and on other week-days from 9.30 till 5. The exhibition, which will end on March 29, consists

mainly of screens of photographs but includes some furniture and textiles. Arrangements are in the hands of two Swedish architects, Alf Bydén and Ake Ahlström. I hear that the exhibition is also to visit Glasgow and Liverpool.

HEATING OF PREFABRICATED CLASSROOMS

The February report of the architectural sub-committee of the Lancashire Education Committee has several references to the heating of "prefabricated"—which I take to mean temporary—classrooms. These references are all to complaints of the unsatisfactory performance of the slow combustion stoves installed in them. The sub-committee recommends that low-pressure, central heating installations should be put in place of the stoves or, if this proves to be impossible, that more efficient stoves should be put in at an estimated cost of £50 each. The type of stove, naturally enough, is not given. This sort of thing is a bad advertisement for the slow combustion stove and means either that someone has been wrongly advised or that a type of stove has been used for quite the wrong purpose. I hope very much that this will come to the notice of the Coal Utilization Council which has done so much for the improvement of the solid-fuel stove since the war, and that it will come within their terms of reference to investigate the complaint.

ABNER

NEWS OF THE WEEK

Proposals to Speed Building of Houses Under Licence

The Minister of Housing and Local Government, Mr. Harold Macmillan, has made five suggestions to help local authorities to speed the building of houses under licence now that they have wider discretion. These are that:—

- (1) private building should be allowed on the many small plots which are not big enough for municipal housing schemes, but where services are already available and houses can go up quickly;
- (2) local authorities should avoid using for their own housing schemes sites owned by builders;
- (3) block licences may be issued to builders who, for speed and economy, wish to build a number of houses as a single job, but always with the proviso that when completed the houses should go, and be seen to go, to persons approved by the local authority;
- (4) consideration should be given to granting licences for the building of small houses to people who now live in houses too big for them, so that the larger houses may become available for family use;
- (5) advantage should be taken of the good building weather of the coming months by granting

licences now, instead of spreading them over the year, provided that this will not dislocate the local building programme.

The suggestions are contained in a circular sent to all housing authorities.

Regional Housing Production Board Set Up for North-West of England

The second of the Regional Housing Production Boards, whose formation was announced by the Minister of Housing and Local Government, Mr. Harold Macmillan, in a speech at Nottingham on January 22, has now been set up. It is for the North-Western Region comprising the counties of Lancashire, Cheshire and part of Derbyshire. Its headquarters will be in Manchester.

The members of the Board are:—
Independent Chairman: Sir Harold Parkinson, O.B.E., J.P., Vice-Chairman of the National Savings Movement.

Representatives of the Building Trades Employers: Mr. L. A. Gerrard, Director of J. Gerrard & Sons, Ltd., Builders & Contractors, Swinton, Manchester. Mr. A. H. Boulton, Director of Boultons (Bebington), Ltd., Builders & Contractors, Bebington, Wirral. Representatives of the Building Trades Operatives: Mr. S. D. McKelvey, Member of the Executive Committee of the National Federation of Building Trades Operatives. Mr.

S. V. May, Regional Secretary of the National Federation of Building Trades Operatives.

Ministry of Housing and Local Government representative: Mr. P. L. Hughes, O.B.E., Principal Regional Officer.

Ministry of Labour and National Service: Mr. F. Tarrant, C.B.E., Regional Controller.

Ministry of Works: Mr. W. D. Marshall, C.B.E., F.A.I., Regional Director.

North York Moors National Park Designation Order

The Chairman of the National Parks Commission (Sir Patrick Duff) has signed the North York Moors National Park (Designation) Order. This is the sixth National Park to be designated.

The Order will be submitted in due course to the Minister of Housing and Local Government for confirmation.

The area, the boundary of which is substantially the same as that proposed in 1947 in the Hobhouse Report, comprises approximately 600 square miles, all in the North Riding of Yorkshire.

In 1951 the Abbey National Building Society's total assets increased by £14,471,000 to £136,630,000. Over £29,000,000 was advanced on mortgage. The Society's liquid assets increased by £535,000 during the year to £17,247,000.

Golden Lane Flats Competition

The winning designs in the architectural competition for the housing scheme which the Corporation of the City of London propose to erect in Golden Lane, Finsbury, will appear in next week's issue.

The R.I.B.A. Council confirmed at the meeting on February 5 the award of the Jury of the Manchester Society of Architects of the R.I.B.A. Architecture Bronze Medal to the Droylesden Secondary Modern School designed by Mr. G. Noel Hill, F.R.I.B.A., County Architect for Lancashire.

On March 6th an exhibition to commemorate the 500th centenary of the birth of Leonardo da Vinci will open in the Diploma Gallery of the Royal Academy.

The death has been announced of Mr. Stewart Kaye, A.R.I.B.A., F.R.I.C.S., in Edinburgh, at the age of 68.

IN PARLIAMENT

Parliament has resumed its normal activities after the sad interruption caused by the death of King George, and has taken the oath of allegiance to the new Sovereign. Its first week's business was arranged to use a variety of non-contentious business as a sober introduction to the Party battles which must soon be renewed. But administration must be a continuous process, and question-time in this first week has given several indications of the way policy is shaping in the Departments. This has been illustrated in relation to housing and materials.

Building Materials

Mr. Macmillan, Minister of Housing and Local Government, stated on February 19, in answer to a question by Mr. Norman Dodds on the prospects of increased supplies of timber, cement and bricks, that he had every reason to believe that these materials would be available for housing in increasing quantities. He was working closely with Lord Swinton, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (who is for the time being in charge of the Ministry of Materials) and the Minister of Works. Mr. Macmillan added that he was not so much concerned with this part of the problem as with many other aspects of it. Mr. Martin Lindsay said there was a widespread feeling that brick production was too low in brick-works inherited by the National Coal Board, because no one on the Board knew anything about brick production, and he suggested an independent examination by one of the well-known producers of bricks in private industry.

Self-help Groups

The activities of self-help building groups were the subject of a number of questions, all asking for encouragement and the allocation of additional

licences by local authorities for these spare-time builders. Mr. Macmillan said that he would like to show his appreciation of the initiative of any self-help group which could satisfy a local authority that its members had the will and the resources to complete the building of a small number of houses quickly. It would be for the local authority to decide how many houses could suitably be authorized at any one time; and authorities knew that in general the more houses that were built in their area the more would be authorized. He agreed to make known the desirability of creating these housing associations. Mr. C. W. Gibson asked how it was proposed to ensure that any houses built under these schemes were at least up to the standards suggested by the Housing Registration Council.

COMING EVENTS

Town Planning Institute.

March 6 at 6 p.m. Talk by Lt. Col. F. G. Hill, C.B.E., M.C., M.I.C.E., on "Public Health Engineering," at Caxton Hall, Caxton Street, S.W.1.

Royal Institute of British Architects.

March 4 at 6 p.m. Lecture by Professor Sir Patrick Abercrombie, M.A. (L'pool), F.S.A., M.T.P.I. (F), on "Twenty Years After," at 66, Portland Place, W.1.

Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

March 3 at 5.30 p.m. Ordinary General Meeting. Address by Sir William Fitzgerald, President of the Tribunal, on "The Lands Tribunal," at 12, Great George Street, S.W.1.

C O R R E S P O N D E N C E

Electrical Contractors

To the Editor of A. & B. N.

Sir,—In your issue of February 7, 1952, under the heading "Unfair to Electrical Contractors," page 159, you state, "Contracting by electrical undertakings is, of course, nothing new and it only became objectionable when the industry was nationalized." The latter part of this statement is untrue; my Association, which is the organization representing electrical contractors in England, Wales and Ireland, has from its inception in 1901, opposed electricity supply undertakings operating electrical contracting activities; not only by appropriate representations in the House of Commons and the House of Lords, but to local authorities and private companies who, prior to nationalization, were the owners of electricity supply undertakings.

It would be interesting to know, therefore, the basis of the statement which you have made.

I am, etc.,

L. C. PENWILL,
Director and Secretary,
The Electrical Contractors
Association (Incorp.).

Glass Block Walls

To the Editor of A. & B. N.

Sir,—In your issue of February 7 you published an interesting article on Glass Block Walls by A. Foreman entitled "Good, Bad or Indifferent?"

Whilst endorsing most of his remarks, I would like to modify some in the hope that your readers will peruse the article once more.

In the fifth paragraph, I wonder whether the first sentence should not read "The most difficult type of walls to deal with when setting out are the curved ones. . . ." The makers recommend the minimum radii which produce wedge-shaped vertical joints whose external width is not unsightly

and give, at the same time, a sufficient width of joint on the intrados for structural purposes; larger curves may, of course, be employed. Corner blocks can be stepped round to quite a small radius, giving a reeded effect. Only square and corner blocks are manufactured so that the term "curved" in paragraph six is rather misleading.

Clearance joints, whilst they serve the same purpose as an "expansion joint" are designed to prevent rigid contact with the main structure, as this may settle or move and impose undue strain on the glass block panels; expansion in the panels themselves can be ignored.

"Fibreglass" strips are often employed now to fill in the clearance joints. These are resilient, and have the advantage that they may be placed in position before the blocks are built, thereby preventing ingress of mortar droppings; a waterproof sealing or pointing medium must close the clearance joint and may be applied by gunning or other means.

In replacement, the remainder of a broken block can be smashed out and the mortar removed from the edges of the surrounding blocks. A new one, buttered all round with mortar, may then be very easily inserted.

Any proprietary brick reinforcement, preferably non-rusting, may be used, and it is quite usual to run this the full length of a panel as it helps to tie it together.

I received the impression that glass blocks are very difficult to build—this is not the case, of course, providing the fixing instructions are complied with, and a little more care taken in setting out and handling than perhaps is necessary for ordinary brick-work.

The foregoing notes are intended to amplify the article which, in itself, is a very useful contribution.

I am, etc.,
for Pilkington Bros. Ltd.,
S. M. STERNFELDT,
L.R.I.B.A., Architect.



Olympic Stadium, Helsinki

To the Editor of A. & B. N.

Sir,—As I was in Finland a few weeks ago and visited the Olympic Stadium at Helsinki, I was particularly interested to see illustrations of this building in the *Architect & Building News*.

The additional stands which you say "are now being erected" have actually been completed for some time and you may be interested in the enclosed photograph showing the additional seating which is entirely constructed in timber, the rich golden colour of which contrasts most effectively with the pure white of the original building.

I am also enclosing cuttings illustrating the construction of the extension which I think rather interesting.

I am, etc.,

H. LOCKSLEY HARE.

[Mr Locksley Hare's photograph and one of the cuttings are reproduced on this page, Ed. A. & B. N.]

Expression in Modern Architecture

To the Editor of A. & B. N.

Sir,—Would you allow me to offer somewhat belatedly some comment on Frederick Gibberd's lecture on "Expression in Modern Architecture," published in the A. & B. N. of January 31?

There is no doubt as to the excellence and timeliness of Mr. Gibberd's remarks. One might perhaps take some exception to his reference to clichés which, as Mr. Gibberd seems to imply, are inevitable.

The utterly depressing fact, however, about this lecture is that it was at all necessary, as obviously it was. What an appalling light it throws on the artistic sensitivity of our profession.

I am, etc.,

H. W. ROSENTHAL.

N.U.S. Report and Moscow Permanent Building Exhibition

To the Editor of A. & B. N.

Sir,—In your issue of October 25, 1951, Abner comments that the National Union of Students' report of a delegation to the Soviet Union makes "interesting and sad reading." How well this remark applies also to the subsequent correspondence upon the subject in your columns!

This has been interesting, I think, because of the relatively high standard maintained in most of so many contributions, by contrast with that unfortunately to be found in the average Press or official pronouncement. But perhaps this makes it the more sad to find the general level reduced by even three correspondents. The first of these made wild, unsubstantiated suggestions about concentration camps in your issue of December 6, 1951. The second, in the same issue, made further unsubstantiated statements about the selection of tenants for new houses in the U.S.S.R. and about the pilfering of materials from other countries. To "quote" one of them, this is "cheap anti-Soviet propaganda, which is unworthy of a true gentleman."

These may be students; but what is to be inferred from the remarks of your contractor-correspondent, to whom

Professor Bernal replied in the issue of February 7? This correspondent evidently does not like his impression of Russian craftsmanship and shares my own dislike of the elevations of the new Berlin Embassy—so he says that, if these are typical, a visiting party would have no difficulty in preparing a fully comprehensive report. From this it would appear that he thinks such a party would have more difficulty if they were not typical. To quote Mr. Loweth, this "places a true value on his letter which few can dispute"; but have all the implications been considered? A Russian architect, reading



this, might surely be forgiven for thinking that persons making a favourable report would be "marked men"—and a further step would then have been taken away from better understanding between the two countries. This can only be deplored by any architect who wishes to practise his profession peacefully.

I am, etc.,

DOUGLAS SMITH.

Sanitary Nomenclature

To the Editor of A. & B. N.

Sir,—I was delighted to read Mr. Edwin Gunn's letter published in to-day's issue of *Architect & Building News* attacking sanitary glosses applied to commodes which to-day are seen and also heard.

In the Plumbing and Drainage Chapter of the revised Mitchell I went so far as to say of lavatory basins: "Lavatory basins (L. *Lavare*—to wash).—The student should rid his vocabulary of current layman's misnomers. A W.C. pan is in no sense a 'lavatory pan.' Yet it is often called such, without, as far as one is aware, any justification."

Let us all definitely call a spade a spade and not shovel, adjectival, humus, for the use of.

I am, etc.,

F. KERR-LUCAROTTI.

NEW SHOE SHOP, OLD BOND STREET, W.I

For the Dolcis Shoe Co., Ltd.

Designed by: ELLIS E. SOMAKE, F.R.I.B.A., Staff Architect to the Company

A HIGH grade Ladies' Shoe Salon was required, combining an atmosphere of richness and elegance with a contemporary approach in design. In the first place, therefore, a careful study was made of shopfronts and stores in Old Bond Street in an effort to analyse their characters. It was found that much of the décor in neighbouring shops relied upon emulating ornament and detail, the chandelier playing no small part in obtaining the atmosphere which is found in Old Bond Street. It was decided that the new shop must relate itself to this mood without necessarily imitating its neighbours.

The property, which is situated close to Burlington Arcade, has a neo-classic façade above the shopfront. A staircase and lift serving the upper floors of the building divide the ground floor into two almost equal portions at front and rear with a corridor link between. There is a change of floor level of about 2ft between these two portions, neither of which was large enough to accommodate the entire sales area.

Because of the planning difficulties, it was decided to treat the two areas as separate functional units linked together. The front portion has become a reception area (an extension of the pavement into the shop), completely open for the sale of impulse goods and for display; the rear area forms the main selling Salon, discreetly secluded from the passer-by. By reason of its existing proportions the front area has been treated in a horizontal manner in contrast to the vertical theme of the rear Salon which was set by an existing column and its greater height. The link between the two areas is narrow, only 5ft wide, and extremely high, 13ft. To correct these proportions an open grid was suspended from the ceiling which effects a strong visual link between the two sales areas. The use of full height mirrors for the whole length of one side of the link helps the illusion of a wider corridor.

It was found that with small adjustments the existing shopfront presented a rectangle of "golden mean" proportion. This was divided to form a solid vertical fascia of "golden mean" proportion while the resulting square, recessed to form a lobby, became an open glass front.

From this simple beginning a theme was set which has been maintained throughout the whole design. Contemporary light fittings in polished and lacquered brass—a metal finish used throughout to contrast with the simplicity and severity of the backgrounds—replace the glitter and sparkle of chandeliers. Verd-antique marble slabs act as a facing for the vertical fascia on which is incised the new Dolcis insignia designed by Reynolds Stone, a leading wood engraver. The new insignia is used here for the first time in this country, although it has been used in two of the

Company's shops opened in Canada last year. The Verd-antique marble is used for the entire length of the left-hand wall which, together with the ceiling and travertine terrazzo lobby floor, runs past the glazed front, visually connecting the lobby with the interior. A new feature is an aluminium Venetian sun-blind which, when closed, recesses into the false ceiling of the lobby. The ceiling over this forward area is flat where it meets the glass, but has a slight curve where it meets the wall, in order to soften the general line of the interior. In the rear salon the whole of one wall is mirrored from floor to ceiling and in contrast hanging drapes fully cover the opposite wall. A series of vertical display panels linked to form a curved screen completes the composition.

Services

The shop is air-conditioned using a system designed to give six air changes per hour throughout the premises. Heating by warmed air throughout the ventilating system is provided by two 12 kW electric air heater batteries in 4 kW bands and the distribution is zoned to front and rear of the shop. Full use has been made of the heat gains from the showroom lighting and this heat source is collected from the void above the false ceiling by a recirculating duct and returned to the ventilating chamber. The fresh air and the recirculated air are filtered through Vokes air filters to prevent heavy dust deposit in the ventilated areas consequent upon the air changes. The extract fan which is of the Axial Flow type is speed controlled and mounted in a roof lantern above the rear of the store. The fan extracts air from the shop via the ceiling voids so that in summer any build-up of heat above the false ceiling from the permanent lighting may be prevented. In order to conceal ventilation openings, distribution was arranged so that a continuous air inlet duct running at low level delivers air from hidden points above a recessed skirting and air is extracted at the opposite side into the ceiling voids at high level. Economy in operating the plant depends upon recirculating warmed air up to approximately 80 per cent of the air handled during severe weather, although air movement ensures conditions of comfort especially in the basement stock area.

The lighting layout has been planned to give a correct level of illumination subdued generally, but with dramatic emphasis on display areas. The whole of the fittings used in the store have been especially designed exclusively for this purpose.

The assistant architects in charge of the work were: R. W. Freeborn, A.R.I.B.A., and G. H. Uffindell, A.R.I.B.A. Edgar Hyman took the photographs illustrating this article.

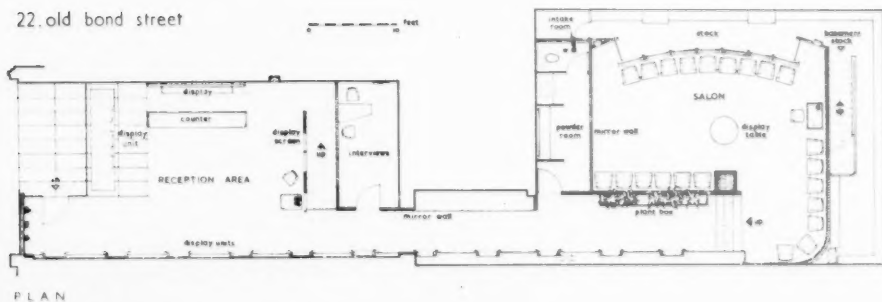
The corridor link between front and rear sales areas. The open grid is of drawn bronze on timber, the bronze being polished to a brass colour and lacquered. The planting box on the right is of metal, stove enamelled white. The left hand wall is panelled in plywood with a dark Pomela Mahogany veneer finish. The show cases are detailed on page 258. The carpet was specially made; the pattern is blue on a grey ground.

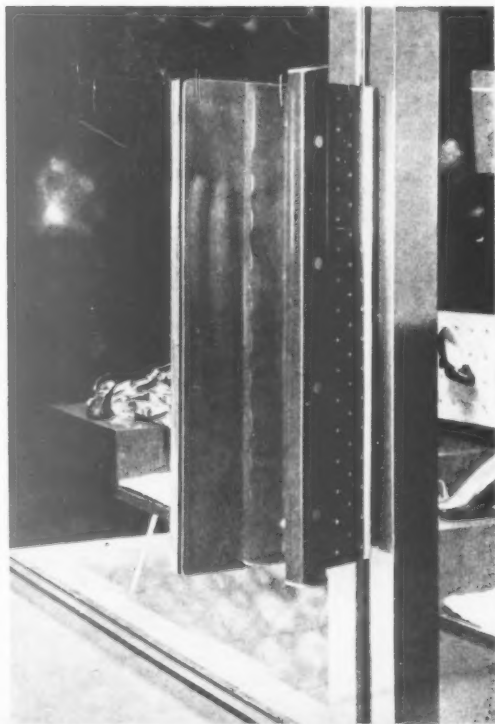
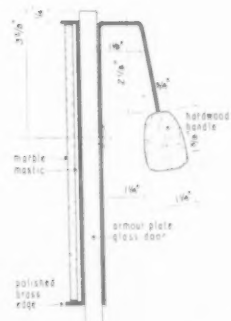
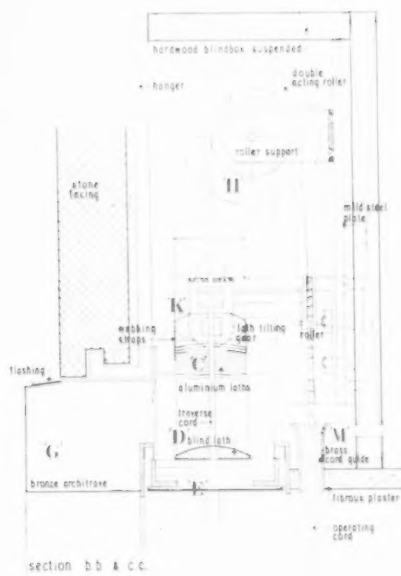
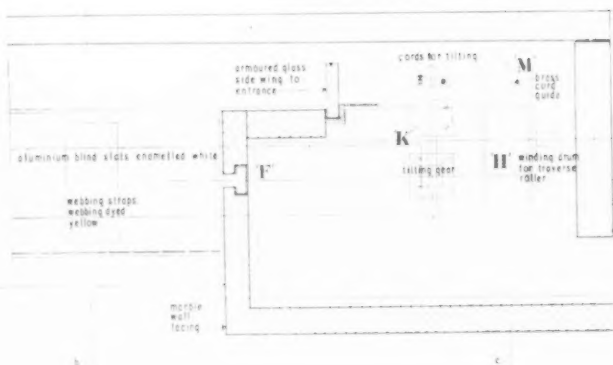
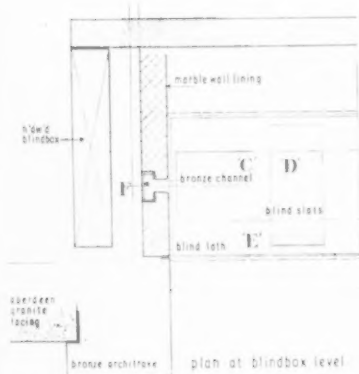


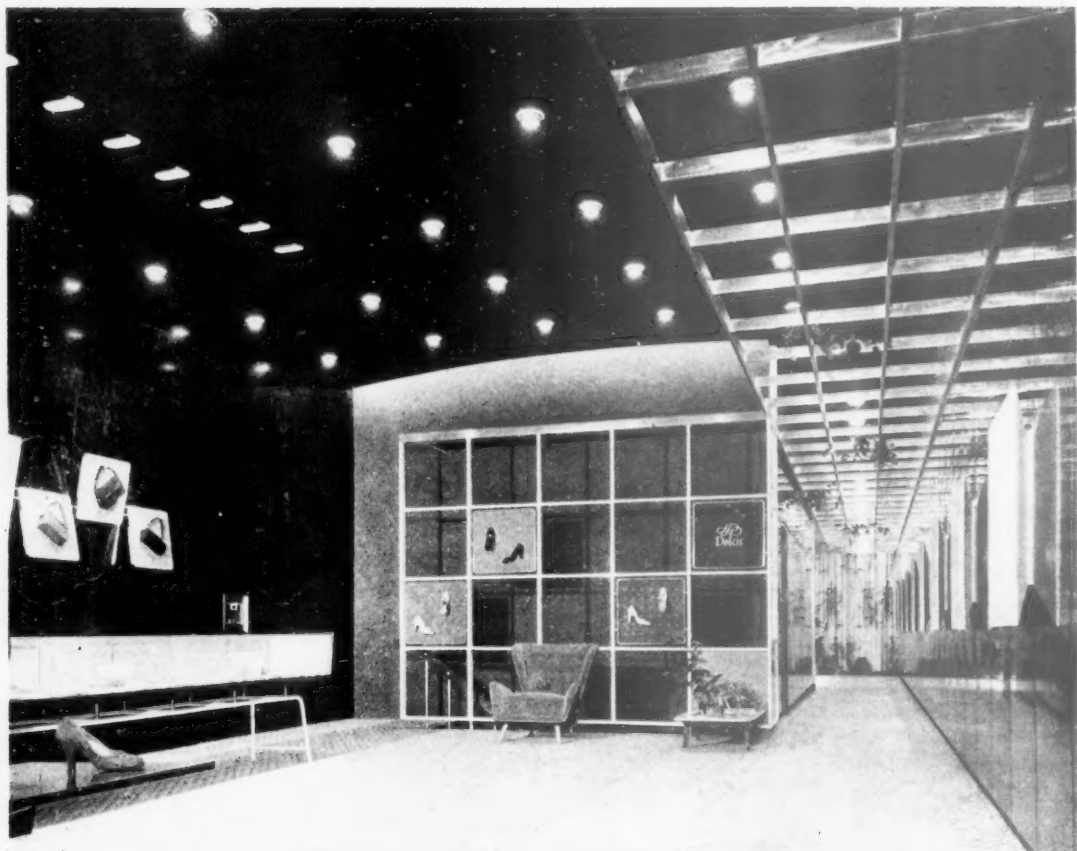


The vertical fascia, of "golden mean" proportion, is in dark Verd-antique marble slabs. The new Dolcis insignia, designed by Reynolds Stone, is incised in gold leaf lettering. The architrave is drawn bronze treated similarly to the open grid. The floor of the entrance front is Travertine Terrazzo. Details of the shop front and special aluminium Venetian blind are shown opposite.

22, old bond street

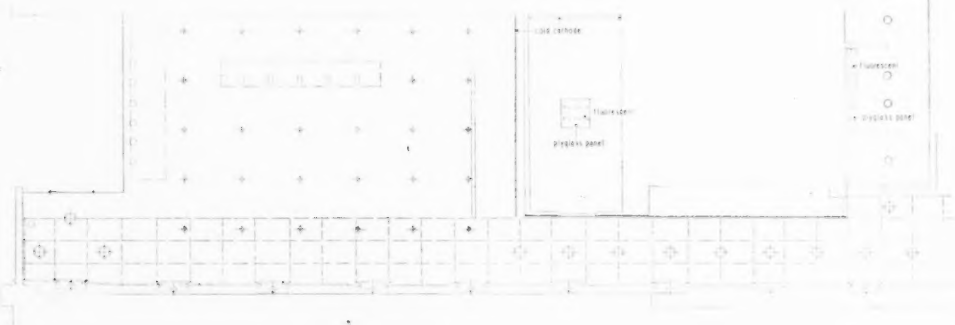




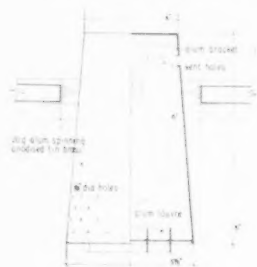


The front reception and impulse sales area. The ceiling is coloured Midnight Blue, and the back wall Blush Rose. The trellis is finished in white cellulose with velvet coloured plaques in Lime, Cherry and Dark Grey. The left hand wall continues the Verd-antique marble from the shop front.

NEW DOLCIS SHOE SHOP, OLD BOND STREET



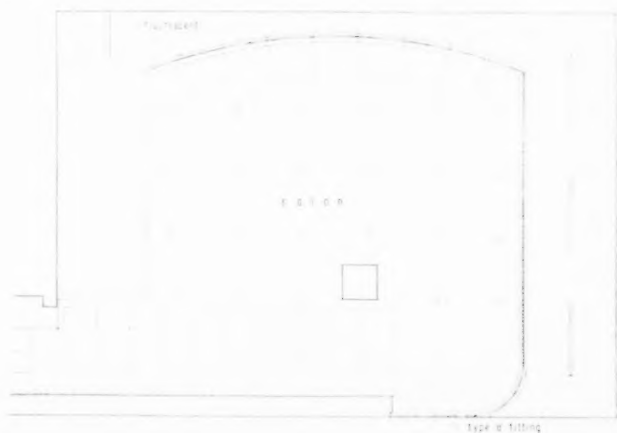
Front sales area lighting plans. Scale, 1/16" = 1 ft.



FITTING TYPE A
Scale: $\frac{1}{8}$ F.S.

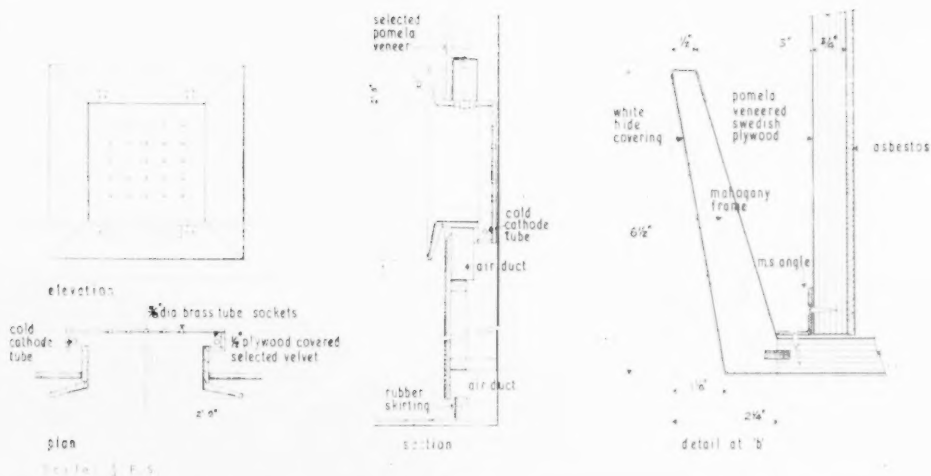


The Salon at the rear. The floating plaster ceiling is painted Burgundy red. The chairs are covered in dove grey velvet corduroy. The drape reflected in the mirrored wall was designed by Miss Loosely, the black figuring is on a white background with touches of lime colour.



Rear Salon lighting plan. Scale: $\frac{1}{16}$ in = 1 ft.

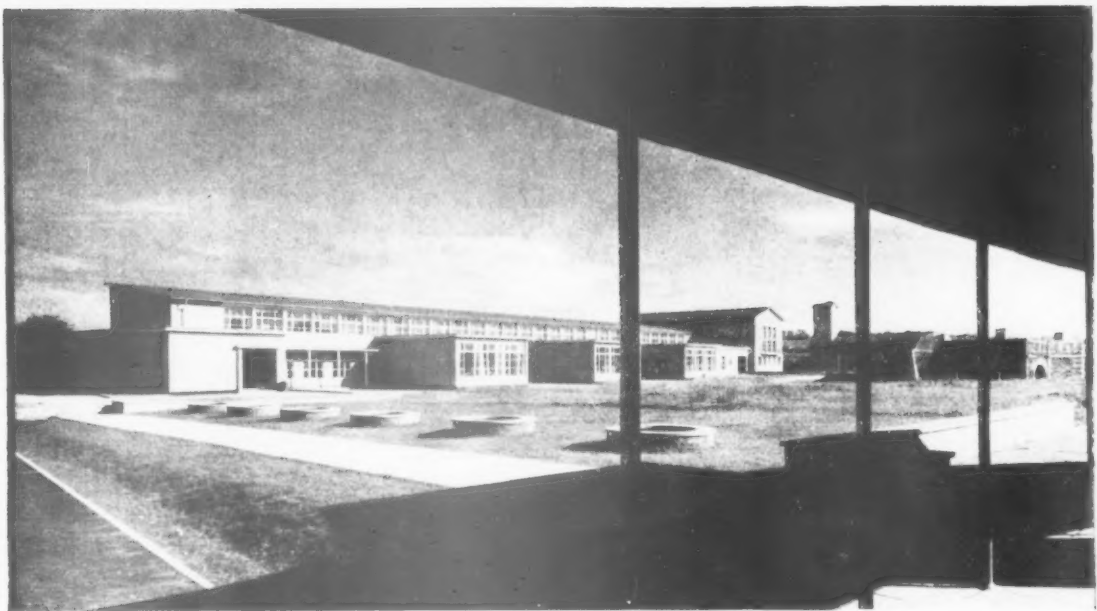




Main Shopfitting Contractors
 Courtney Pope Ltd.
 Carpets
 G. A. Sawyer Ltd.
 Chairs and Footstools
 Russell Bros.
 Display Fabrics
 F. G. Minter (Decorations) Ltd.
 Electrical Wiring and Fittings
 Courtney Pope (Electrical) Ltd.
 Granite
 John F. Shackleton & Son Ltd.
 Heating and Ventilation
 Rosser & Russell Ltd.
 Hire and Display Frames
 Woolnough Ltd.
 Marble Work
 J. Whitehead & Sons Ltd.
 Paints
 Thos. Parsons & Sons Ltd.
 Plaster—Fibrous
 James & Sons Ltd.
 Pneumatic Cush. Tubes
 Lamson Engineering Co. Ltd.
 Sanitary Fittings
 W. N. Froy & Sons Ltd.
 Terrazzo
 Marriott & Price Ltd.
 Venetian Blind
 Adams Ltd.
 Draperies
 Miss A. M. R. D. Loosely.

First view of the rear Salon
 is obtained over the plant-
 ing box as one arrives at
 the end of the link
 corridor. The wall panels
 on the far side are coloured
 lavender grey and the
 plaques are coloured alter-
 natively grey and lime. The
 chairs were purpose made.

NEW DOLCIS SHOE SHOP, OLD BOND STREET, W. I.



View from entrance gate and shelter. The circular beds will contain trees.

KNOWLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

For the
Corporation
of Plymouth

architect:

LOUIS de SOISSONS

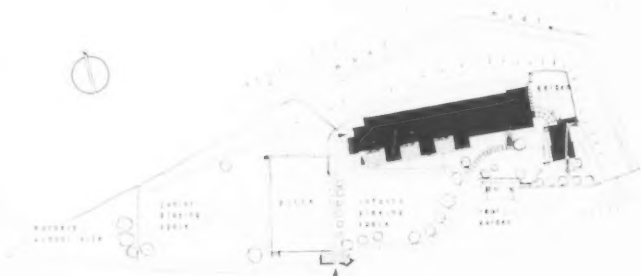
A.R.A. & PARTNERS

partner in charge:

R. W. TOMS

chief assistant:

R. W. V. BOARD



BLOCK PLAN

IN the days of Palmerston, a series of forts was constructed around the North of Plymouth as a defence against outflanking attacks on the city from the river valleys. To-day these defences lie well within the city boundaries and beyond them are the new housing estates, developed since the war.

The site for Knowle School comprises one of these forts, together with a triangular area of relatively level ground to the West. The fort is built on a bluff with a severe drop to a moat at its foot, and commands extensive views towards Cornwall and Dartmoor. Within it were massive gun emplacements, and a series of underground magazines and communications.

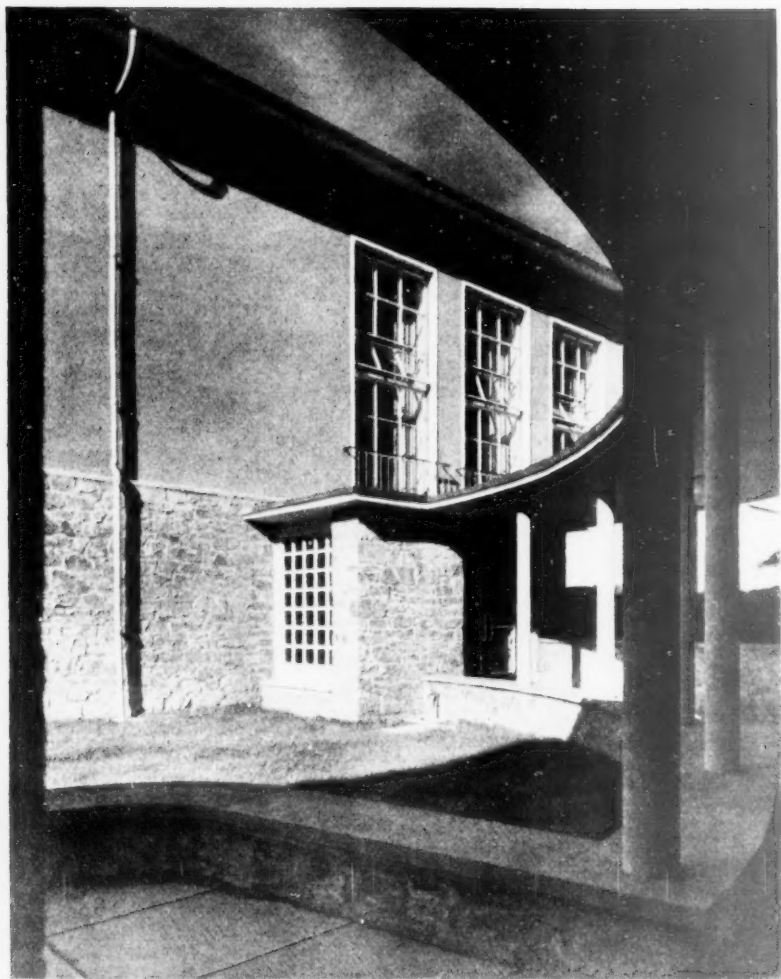
Planning

The accommodation required was for a one stream primary school with provision for a future nursery school.

The primary school is sited within the old fort itself and by the demolition and levelling of one of the old walls, the fort has been opened up into the remainder of the site. The future nursery school is at the opposite end of the site, as near as possible to the houses on the estate.

To overcome, as economically as possible, the varying levels inside the old fort itself, the infants' classrooms were planned on the level of the original floor of the fort with the juniors' department stepped back and higher up the bank. A continuous reinforced concrete retaining wall runs the length of the building to deal with the change in levels. From the juniors' department are fine views over the firing parapet to the North and the roof of the infants corridor is utilized as an open-air terrace in front of the classrooms on the South side.

The assembly hall is planned at the higher level with the corridor to the dining room crossing beneath it. The latter, together with the kitchen and boiler house, forms a



Covered way to Dining Room. The Assembly Hall is in the background.

separate building connected to the school by a curved covered way.

An old gun emplacement has been adapted as the centre of a small garden opening off the assembly hall and outdoor teaching can also take place, under very sheltered conditions, on the roof of the old magazine building to the South, approached by a new flight of steps from the lower level.

A shelter is provided at the gates to the school, which has not only been planned to accommodate bicycles but as a protection for parents waiting to collect their children on leaving school.

Classrooms

The three infants' classrooms are planned as pavilions with high South windows each with its doors opening directly on to a sheltered outdoor teaching space. These classrooms have open store spaces of a lower ceiling height and are top lit and provided with fittings which include drawers or boxes to be removed by the children. The

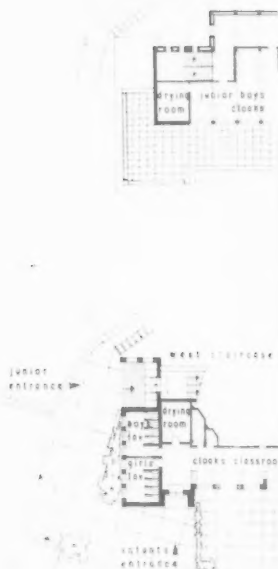
cloaks for the infants are planned in the corridor with separate lavatories for the admission classrooms.

The junior classrooms are clerestory lit with enclosed stores planned under the roof of the corridor. Each has an external door opening on to the terrace on the South side and this is provided with continuous flower boxes to the parapet wall.

All classrooms are fitted with a window bench incorporating a sink and pin-up boards on other walls. The junior classrooms have metal venetian blinds to the South windows, the infants' windows being provided with curtains.

Construction

The main internal retaining wall, together with the terrace over the infants' corridor, is of in situ reinforced concrete. The assembly hall has load-bearing brick walls and elsewhere the building is framed with reinforced concrete columns supporting light welded steel trusses, specially designed by the consulting engineers. The roof is generally

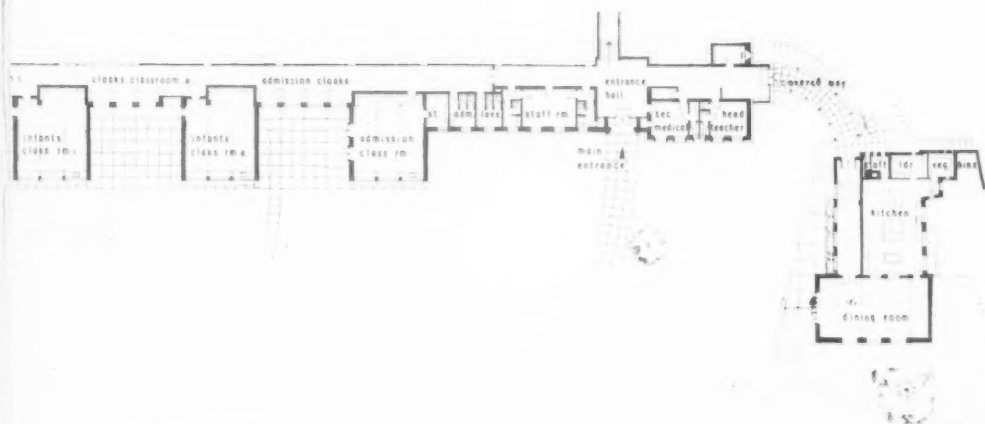


[Continued on page 261.]



UPPER LEVEL

KNOWLE PRIMARY SCHOOL



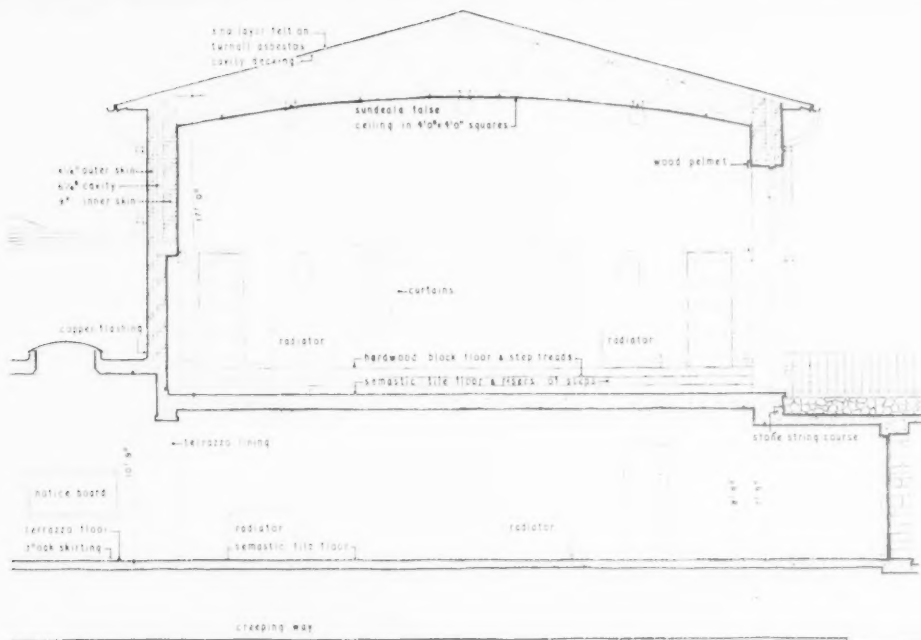
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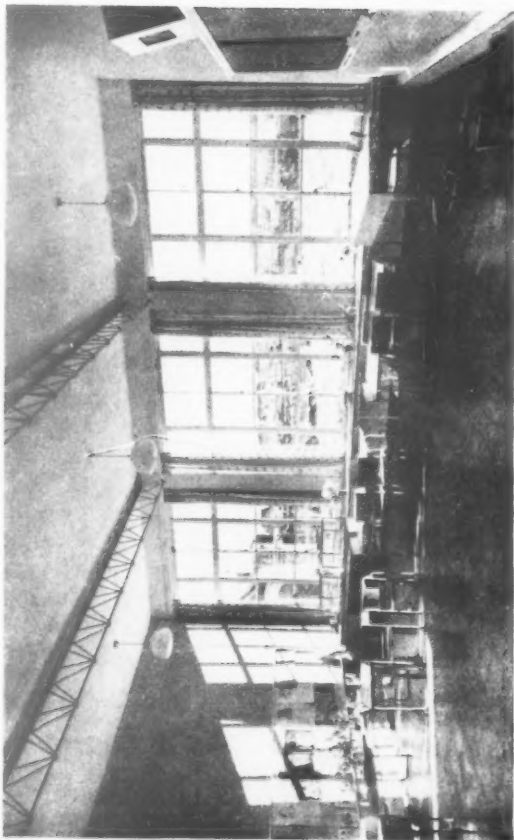
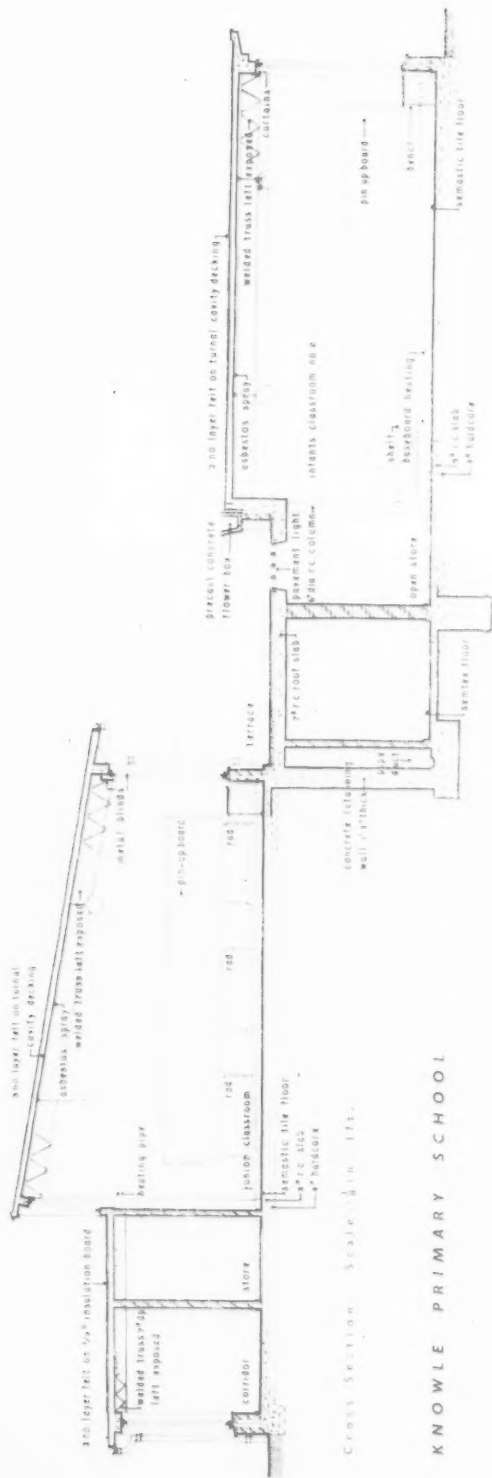




SECTION THROUGH ASSEMBLY HALL. SCALE 1/16" = 1'-0"

Assembly Hall from the fixed platform. It is fitted with simple gymnastic apparatus including the "Southampton" apparatus on the right which folds into a recess.





(Continued from page 260).

of Turnall Cavity Asbestos Decking, laid dry and bolted to the trusses, the decking forming longitudinal ducts for the electric conduits, etc. Roof covering is generally built-up felt with Callender's air insulated roofing slabs to the terrace.

Equipment and Finishes

Heating is by low pressure hot water, generally with radiators, but with floor heating to the assembly hall and Dunham baseboard heating to the infants' classrooms.

The main heating pipes, together with drainage pipes from above and other service pipes, run along the face of the main retaining wall beside the infants' corridor. Ply-wood panels with removable sections are provided for the whole length of the corridor, thus obviating trenches or creeping ways except from the heating chamber to the

main building. The plywood is Obeche, wax polished.

Floors generally are of thermoplastic tiles with terrazzo to the entrance halls, staircases and kitchen. Corridor walls are oil painted, the classrooms being distempered with stone paint to the exposed columns. Ceilings to classrooms have rough pressed asbestos spray applied direct to the asbestos decking, and this has proved to be quite efficient in its acoustic qualities.

The building is finished externally with "Colorcast" splatter finish.

Building Contract

The building was commissioned in 1948 and work started in December, 1949, taking about 18 months to complete. (The junior classrooms were in use by Easter, 1951.) The cost worked out at approximately £170 per place after allowances are made for the special abnormalities of the site.

View from South-east showing the school within the walls of the old fort. The valley in the foreground outside the site has been filled in and will become a recreation ground for the housing estate.



KNOWLE PRIMARY SCHOOL, PLYMOUTH.



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South front, administration section

New River Lodge L.C.C. Home for Aged People

ON Wednesday, February 27, this new home, where old people began to take up residence last December, was opened by Mr. I. J. Hayward, Leader of the London County Council.

The full complement for New River Lodge is 92 people. The orientation of the buildings on the site of about 1½ acres was carefully considered to give the greatest number of bedrooms an East or West aspect, and living rooms a South aspect. But it was recognized that old people like to watch the activities of their young neighbours and so the Library and Needlework room, with sitting-out places over, are placed on the North side overlooking the New River to the roadway beyond. One sitting-room is convertible into a billiard room and another is fitted up for entertainment with stage, footlights, curtains, etc.

The dining room has views of both river and garden with a loggia on the garden side which can seat the full number of residents at one time.

Bedroom accommodation shown on

the plans overleaf are in single and two-bed rooms and two three-bed rooms.

A flat for the matron and accommodation for the assistant matron and staff are provided.

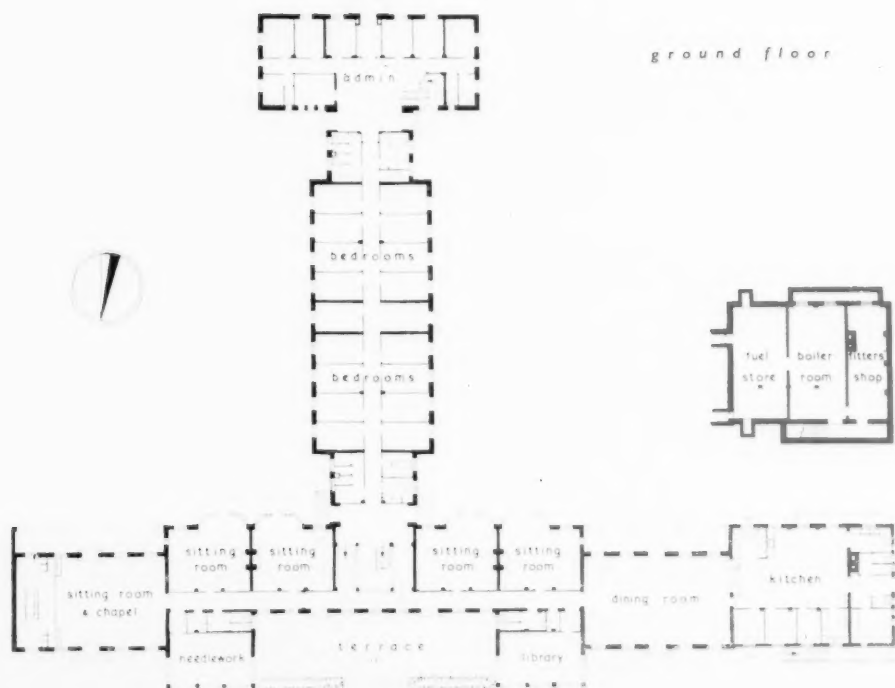
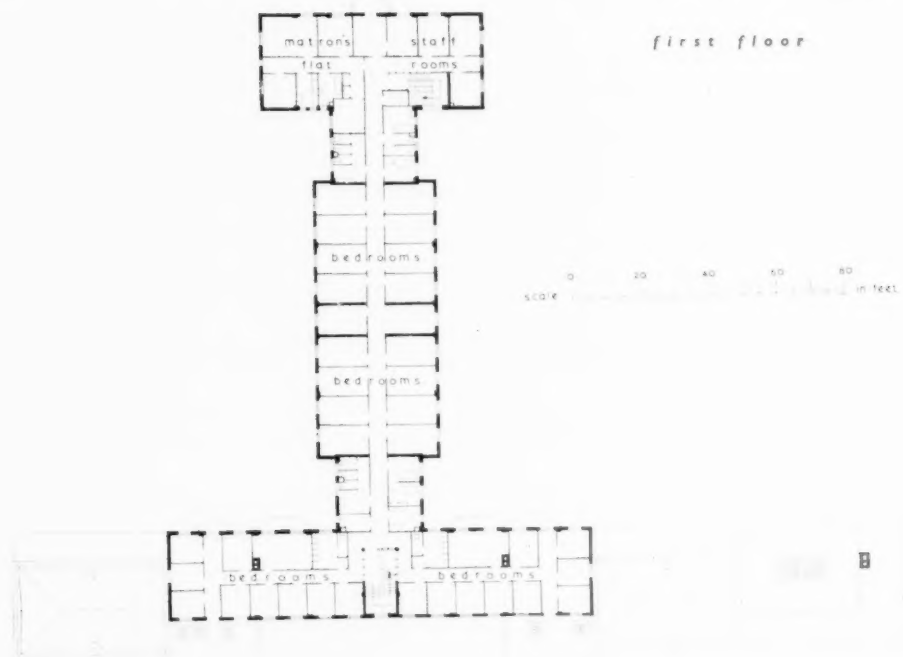
The colour of the interior and furnishings have been chosen to obtain

a restful atmosphere and the old people's comfort and safety have been increased by using cork flooring and providing hand-rails in corridors. Central heating is provided by low-pressure hot-water radiators, but the staff rooms have gas fires only.

In the front elevation of the
Continued on page 267



SITE PLAN



Continued from page 263

administration section, illustrated the turret has been designed to take all the gas flues.

The home was built by Henry Boot and Sons, Ltd., to the design prepared in the office of Mr. Robert H. Matthew, A.R.I.B.A., the Council's Architect, by Mr. W. J. Durnford, F.R.I.B.A., a Senior Architect, and Mr. A. E. Miller, F.R.I.B.A.



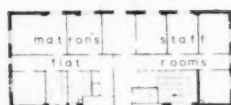
NEW RIVER LODGE
L.C.C. HOME FOR
AGED PEOPLE

Top right, one of the bedrooms for two persons. The accommodation includes single rooms, double rooms and two rooms with three beds.

Above, old people grouped around a fire in one of the sitting-rooms.

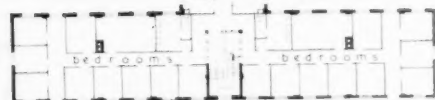
Right, the well-furnished hall. Pleasing and restful colours and furnishings have been used to help make the old people comfortable.



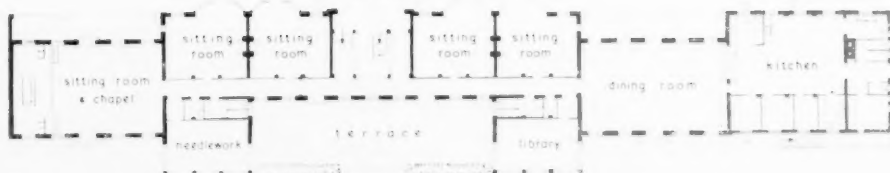
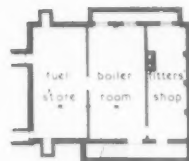


first floor

0 20 40 60 80
SCALE in feet



ground floor



Continued from page 265

administration section, illustrated the turret has been designed to take all the gas flues.

The home was built by Henry Boot and Sons, Ltd., to the design prepared in the office of Mr. Robert H. Matthew, A.R.I.B.A., the Council's Architect, by Mr. W. J. Durnford, F.R.I.B.A., a Senior Architect, and Mr. A. E. Miller, F.R.I.B.A.



NEW RIVER LODGE
L.C.C. HOME FOR
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Top right, one of the bedrooms for two persons. The accommodation includes single rooms, double rooms and two rooms with three beds.

Above, old people grouped around a fire in one of the sitting-rooms.

Right, the well-furnished hall. Pleasing and restful colours and furnishings have been used to help make the old people comfortable.



A.B.T. Statement on Housing Policy

THE Executive Committee of the Association of Building Technicians wishes to express its profound concern at the housing policy so far announced by the Government. It sees no justification for any hope that this policy will lead to any substantial increase in the number of houses, while the new house plans represent, in spite of the Minister's claim to the contrary, the first serious reduction in post-war housing standards. There is little sign of any positive policy by the Government to carry out the many recommendations made since the war by various official committees, which have revealed the general backwardness and inefficiency of the building industry. On the contrary, the Government's housing programme, by handing back to private enterprise a larger share of the financing and building of houses, disrupts the efforts of many local councils to plan and programme their work on the most economic basis, and invites private speculators to return to the low standard building of the inter-war years.

The Committee wish to draw particular attention to the following points:—

1. The power given to local authorities to increase the ratio of houses built by private builders is likely to diminish the amount of accommodation provided for those who are in most need in favour of those who can best afford to pay. As an instance we quote the case of a typical provincial borough with a waiting list (revised every six months) of over 2,000 families, some of whom have been over five years on the list. The waiting list of applicants for licences to build is only 200—none of whom has been over three years on the list.

2. The increase in rents resulting from the increase in interest rates on loans should be borne by increased subsidy contributions.

3. We strongly oppose the reduction in overall house areas in the new plans issued as "Houses, 1952: A Second Supplement to the Housing Manual." An examination of these plans reveals that circulation area and effective storage area have been cut to such an extent that not only will the interiors of many of these houses appear mean and cramped, but the effective living space will be reduced. For example, widths of certain rooms have been reduced below reasonable minima; prams (or cycles) will sometimes have to be kept in living rooms, or in narrow entrance passages; living space is seriously affected by staircases which lead out of living rooms. For clean shape and freedom from awkward projections, the plans compare badly with those published in the previous Manuals. We consider that the claim to have cut only waste space and to have maintained Dudley Committee standards is false. We strongly urge

local authorities not to build houses with an overall area below 900 square feet (for the three-bedroom house).

We welcome the experiments in terrace houses and in whole-house heating, provided that they are not used as means of reducing the effective area of the house below the Dudley Committee standards.

4. We doubt the claim put forward by the Minister that the new house types will to any very large extent increase the annual production of houses from "the available materials, labour and money." The chief saving will be in bricks and mortar, and to this extent more houses might be built than would otherwise be the case. It is evident, however, that there is going to be no increase in the production of sanitary fittings, grates, cookers, windows, electrical work and so on—and without an increase in components, which the rearmament programme appears to rule out for the time being, it is difficult to see how more houses can be built.

On the question of supply of materials we again draw attention to the recommendations of the Simon Report, 1946, concerning monopolistic and restrictive practices, and suggest that public control (or the freeing of materials from restrictive private agreements) would improve the supply position and reduce costs.

5. We are opposed to increasing the ratio of two-bedroom houses built by local authorities beyond the present figure (39 per cent), unless local authorities can justify this by means of local housing surveys. It is fallacious to assume that a married couple, who are lucky enough to get a two-bedroom house now, can in a few years' time move to a larger house.

We recommend the three-bedroom house for four persons (that is, with one large and two small bedrooms) as a useful and economic alternative to the two-bedroom house.

We deplore the fact that the Government has made no reference to houses for larger families (that is for six- or seven-person families).

6. We wish to draw attention to the fact that, apart from the hope that the Ministry bulletin, "Houses, 1952," will also serve as a guide to private speculators, the Government has established no minimum standards for private builders. Here is a real danger to future housing standards, and we urge local authorities to compel developers to conform to their own standards for local authority housing (basically those of the Housing Manuals).

7. We believe the way to reduce housing costs and to build more houses is:—

- (i) To increase the efficiency of the building industry by an overhaul of its methods of tendering, site organization and supervision, and

- (ii) To improve building technique by co-ordinating sizes for components, revising byelaws and greatly increasing comprehensive building research.

Scholarships Abroad 1952-53

The British Council has published a handbook giving details of some 90 scholarships offered by 15 foreign governments and universities to British students for the academic year 1952-53.

The countries offering scholarships are: Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Persia, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

Further information and application forms may be obtained from The Controller, Education Division, The British Council, 65, Davies Street, London, W.1.

Dow Prize Competition

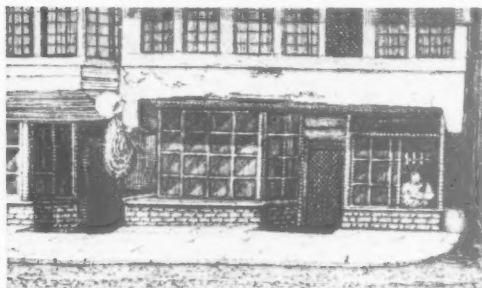
In memory of John Stewart Dow, and in virtue of a bequest by him, the Illuminating Engineering Society offers a prize which will be awarded to the winners of a competition intended to encourage collaboration between students of illuminating engineering or those branches of engineering concerned with illumination, and students in other fields in which applied lighting plays an important part. While entries from individuals are not excluded, the competition is primarily intended for students working in collaboration. The winning entry will receive a total cash award of £75 and a certificate will be presented to each member of the winning team. Certificates of commendation will be awarded to any other entries of outstanding merit.

Conditions for the 1952 competition are given below. The competition will be set and judged by a panel of assessors appointed by the Illuminating Engineering Society, in co-operation with the Royal Institute of British Architects and the Institution of Electrical Engineers.

Conditions for the 1952 Prize.

1. The Subject for the 1952 competition is the layout, artificial lighting and decoration of a ground-floor showroom.
2. Relevant documents with instructions as to the form which entries should take will be available on April 1: forms of application may now be obtained from the Secretary of the Illuminating Engineering Society, 32, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.
3. The competition is open to anyone who, not having completed his 26th year by the opening date (i.e., April 1), can show that he is taking or has taken a course of instruction, or has had equivalent training of a nature appropriate to the subject of the competition. All members of a team must comply with these conditions.
4. Candidates must have been born on or after April 1, 1926.
5. The last date for submission of entries is November 30, 1952.
6. Candidates may be required to give to the assessors a verbal explanation of their schemes.
7. In the event of there being no entry of sufficient merit, the award may be withheld.
8. The assessors' judgment of the entries will be final. In all other matters relating to the competition, the decision of the Council of the I.E.S. shall be final.

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The Queen's Nursery, Golden Lane, Barbican. Late seventeenth century.

From J. T. Smith's *Antiquities of London*.

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IMPROVED ACOUSTICS IN THE B.B.C.'s ORCHESTRAL STUDIO No. 1 AT MAIDA VALE



MODIFICATIONS have been made recently at Maida Vale to improve the acoustic qualities of the B.B.C.'s No. 1 orchestral studio. The results achieved have been praised by conductors, players and listeners alike, and the methods of overcoming the technical problems which were met with, are explained in this article.

This studio, with a volume of 213,000 cu ft, is the B.B.C.'s largest. It was built in 1934 inside a former roller-skating rink, and in accordance with the ideas on studio design current at the time, the walls were covered with building board and the floor carpeted except for the area actually occupied by the orchestra. But the acoustics of the studio have never been entirely satisfactory, being boomy in the bass and dead at the higher frequencies.

During recent years engineers of the B.B.C.'s Research Department have made a study of the acoustic qualities of a number of concert halls both in this country and on the continent to obtain information upon which new designs might be based. In the course of their investigations new methods have been developed and applied to reverberation time measurement and to the study of structural vibration. A new technique has also been developed which enables permanent photograph records to be obtained of the behaviour of a studio over the desired frequency gamut. By careful listening tests the acoustic

qualities of each hall were first assessed as far as possible, after which a more detailed study using the above techniques was made to ascertain the causes of any interesting effects noticed.

From the data collected it was deduced that a combination of good tone and good definition can only be achieved when the sound field in the hall or studio is well diffused, from which it followed that sound striking walls should be so scattered as to arrive at the listener's ear, or at the microphone, from many different directions rather than being reflected from only a few surfaces. To meet these requirements the surfaces need to carry numerous scattering elements to assist diffusion, such as columns or coffering. For this purpose it has been found that rectangular shapes are the most effective.

From test data it was considered that the appropriate reverberation time for Maida Vale Studio No. 1 should be about 1.8 seconds with the orchestra present, while the reverberation-frequency characteristic should be level up to about 3,000 c/s. Any steep rise of reverberation time in the extreme bass was particularly to be avoided because it causes bass masking of the orchestra by the tympani. For the same reason hard reflecting surfaces immediately behind the orchestra were considered undesirable. An acoustically absorbent background such as a choir or part

of an audience has been found to improve definition by avoiding reinforcement of the tympani and heavy brass which tend to mask the less powerful instruments.

In 1948 the Acoustics Committee of the B.B.C. decided that the re-treatment of the Maida Vale Studio No. 1 was an urgent necessity if the standard of orchestral broadcasts was to be improved, and since this studio was for large orchestras, in many cases joined by a choir, it was decided to attempt a reproduction of the natural acoustic setting for such combinations, namely the concert hall. It was agreed that the re-treatment should embody the findings and recommendations referred to above.

Designs were prepared by the Building Department of the B.B.C. which included the provision of roofing-felt membrane absorbers covering almost the whole area of the side walls and varying in depth from 3 inches up to 18 inches. These serve to reduce the reverberation time in the extreme bass where it was previously excessive. They also act as scattering elements at all frequencies above about 90 c/s. No absorbent materials were used on the ceiling, but the highly reflective surface was broken up by introducing a large number of scattering elements consisting of flat rectangular plates supported on pedestals at distances varying between 1 and 3 feet from the ceiling. Composite absorbing units, making use of both porous and membrane absorption were installed in front of the rear end wall over the balcony. These units present a serrated wall form thus preventing the sound from being reflected as a strong echo. The wood block apron in front

of the orchestra was extended by 15ft and the orchestra risers were mounted on solid concrete. A dado of plywood backed by rockwool was installed along the sides and below the balcony. To accommodate a choir permanent seating was installed, advantage of the padded seats being taken to reduce the variation in reverberation time resulting from the occasional presence of a large chorus.

In preparing the new designs the opportunity was taken to improve the studio architecturally and aesthetically. A completely re-designed lighting system has been employed to ensure adequate illumination of the musical scores, the players, singers and conductor, whilst at the same time enhancing the desired concert hall effect. Considerable thought was also given to the colour scheme which has been co-ordinated with the general architectural treatment to produce an improved appearance and a pleasant blending of the necessary acoustic and architectural features into one harmonious whole. Whilst not strictly a part of the acoustic treatment these factors are acknowledged to have an effect on artists, and thus on their performance.


The tests carried out after the re-treatment was completed showed that the general reverberation time had been reduced to approximately 1.75 seconds, and that over the desired frequency gamut there were no serious changes of pitch or "ringing" of the sort usually associated with colorations on music. Such colorations are usually caused by free vibrations of wall or ceiling structures or of wooden staging, and it will be noticed that no structures likely to give this trouble were used in the design.



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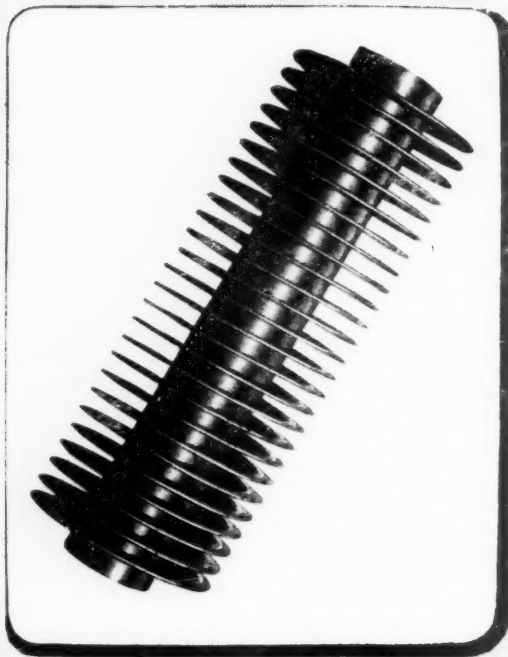
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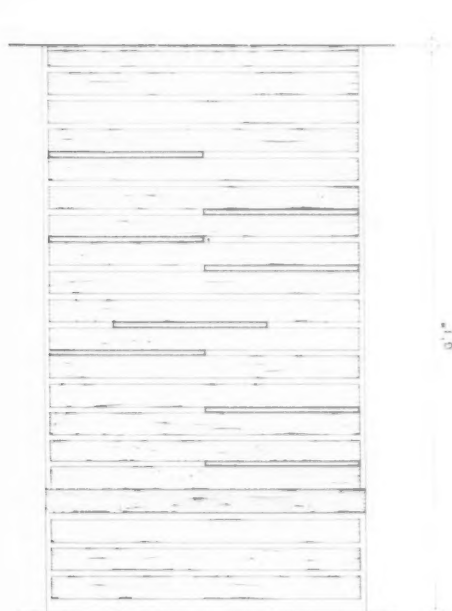
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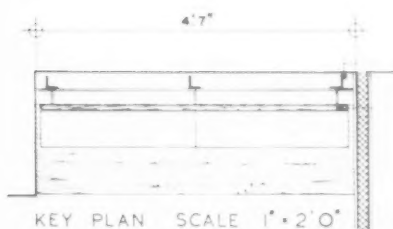
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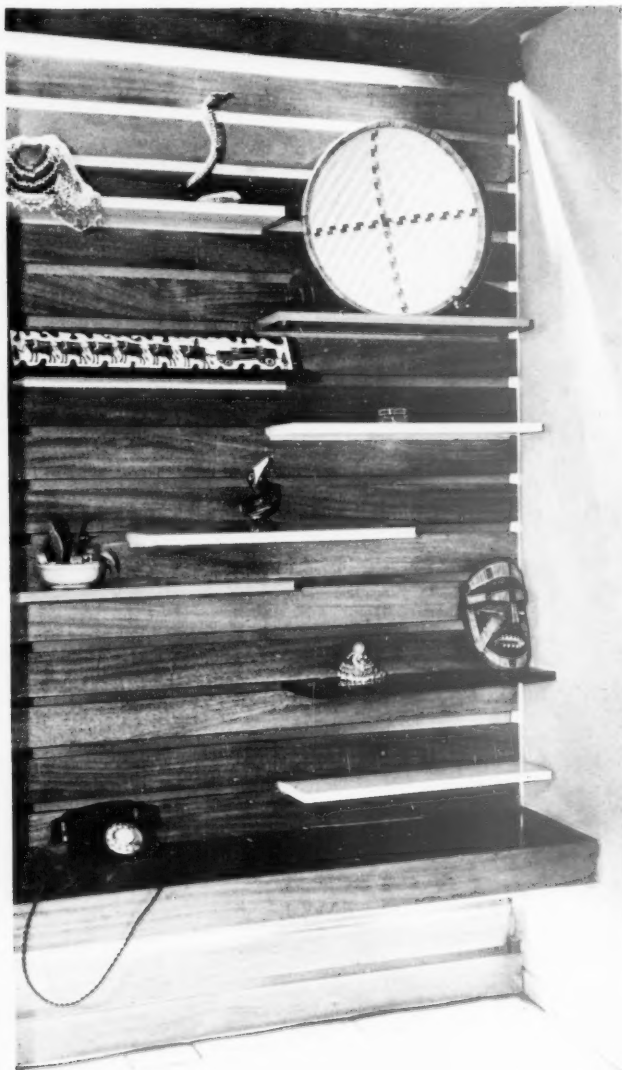
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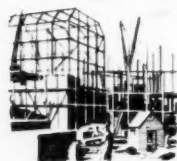
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PONTYPRIDD BUILDERS' SUPPLY LTD., 16 Taff Street, Pontypridd.
SHARPE & FISHER LTD., Pittville Street, Cheltenham.
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G. R. WATSON BUILDERS LTD., 25 Butcher Row, Beverley, Yorks.
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GOOD, BAD OR INDIFFERENT ?

No. 67.—By A. FOREMAN

Hanging Cupboards

THERE seems to be a belief that any recess in a bedroom can be turned into a hanging cupboard merely by putting a cupboard front across it. In fact nothing is further from the truth if the enclosed space is to be of any value to the occupiers. Cupboards must be properly designed in order that they may have minimum basic dimensions into which clothes may be placed. The days of installing a few coat hooks on a board plugged to the wall are dead and gone. Bedrooms should have at least 2ft run of hanging space per person measured on the hanging rod. The width or depth of the cupboard must be at least 1ft 10in inside measured at right angles to the hanging rod. There should be a cupboard bottom lifted a few inches above the floor to keep out the normal floor dust. The height from this cupboard bottom to the hanging rod should be at least 5ft.

I am sure it is wise to install upper cupboards reaching to the ceiling in order to avoid a top, just out of reach, which collects dirt and dust. It is best to make these upper cupboards separate from the lower cupboards as they are more easy to handle and install in position but even with this arrangement it is essential to keep the overall height of the combined units at least 1in short of the finished floor to ceiling height and cover the space with a moulding.

When it is desired to install combined hanging and shelved cupboards it is better

to use pairs of doors as, to be useful they cannot be less than 3ft wide, and single doors of this size occupy too much space when opened at 90 deg. It is essential that doors should be the full width of the cupboard.

Personally, I like to make my cupboards as independent units with their own sides and backs rather than merely to install fronts alone. Unfortunately, this practice takes up a great deal of timber which to-day we cannot always spare from the meagre allocation. Separate units can be installed when the carcass has had a reasonable chance to dry out. It is unnecessary, and in fact undesirable, to plaster walls behind these units, which should be so fixed that they can be removed if necessary for special cleansing. Whether or not units are used the minimum dimensions given here, in "Planning" by "E. & O.E." or in B.S.1292 must be maintained.

When cupboards have plastered interiors they must be given a chance to dry out thoroughly before the doors are hung and even then doors need to be kept open for months if mildew on the contents is to be avoided. Permanent ventilation is really desirable if it can be provided in a manner which is not unsightly. Most of this type of trouble can be avoided with unit cupboards installed after the carcass has dried out.

Linen cupboards are probably even more badly designed in the average house than even the bedroom cupboards. I should like to avoid the general practice of installing the hot-water storage tank in linen cupboards so as to gain more space

and to facilitate access to it when this is necessary. So often it is necessary for the plumber to complete his job before the linen cupboard is installed as afterwards he has insufficient working space.

All linen cupboards should be ventilated by small panels about 6in by 2in filled with wire gauze, but these should not be directly connected to the roof space as too much dirt and dust will enter; they are best in vertical surfaces such as the door. Never should linen cupboards be placed in bathrooms which are so liable to dampness due to steam.

The shape of the linen cupboards is very important, deep but narrow spaces are useless so they should be as wide as possible, 3ft is none too much for a three-bedroom house and a depth of not less than 2ft and better 2ft 3in, which is necessary to accommodate folded sheets and blankets. A depth of 1ft 9in is absolutely the minimum of real value. Shelves should not be solid so that the warm air from the heater or storage tank may circulate and should be not less than 12in nor more than 15in apart vertically, starting 18in from the floor. Again, it is better to keep the bottom of the cupboard at skirting level to keep out the floor dust. If tanks and cylinders are placed in linen cupboards, it will be found that the standard sizes for "actual" storage capacities can be accommodated comfortably including proper lagging in a depth of 2ft to 2ft 3in. Pairs of doors are, as for bedroom cupboards, preferable as they usually open into relatively narrow corridors and their use avoids difficulties of access to the front corners.

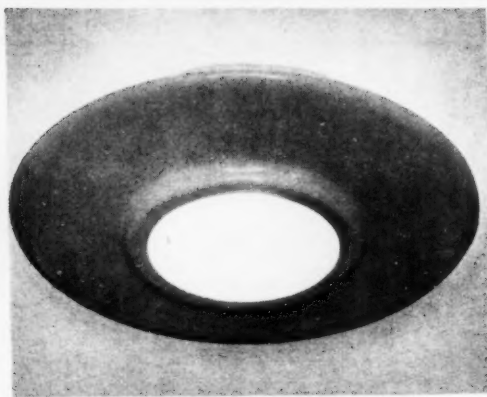


British Resin Products Limited exhibited unit furniture and corrugated plywood at the Furniture and Allied Trades Exhibition at Earls Court, to demonstrate the use of Cellobond adhesives made from synthetic resins. The fitment above is composed of independent units. The

single fitment effect is provided by the cladding surrounding the units and the cover strips that hide the joints.

The corrugated plywood is suitable for wall panelling and by variation of the profile of the corrugations it can be used in door construction either as lightweight core or, if two sheets are glued together, with the corrugations at right angles to each other, for doors without facings.





**SERVICES
LIGHTING**

BI 26

The Tanaura Halo is a ceiling fixture which gives downwards and upward lighting. The halo itself is of reinforced plaster with ivory cellulose finish. Glazing is of pinhead morocco glass. The reflector requires sufficient ceiling depth to house 4½ in. Overall dimensions are 7½ in from top of reflector to bottom of plaster disc; 14½ in total diameter of disc. Bin diameter of reflector. The fitting will take one 100-watt lamp. The price is 82s 6d plus 22 per cent purchase tax.

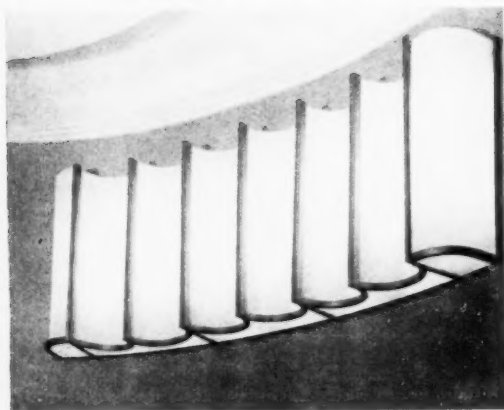
MOSAICS

The names and addresses of manufacturers of any item illustrated in MOSAICS, together with more detailed information relating to their products—including price and availability—will be forwarded to readers on request.

Letters should quote the serial number and be addressed to:

The Editor,
The Architect and Building News,
Dorset House,
Stamford Street, S.E.1.

Please mark the envelope MOSAICS.



**SERVICES
LIGHTING**

BI 27

Lighting fitting in the Berkeley, Hotel, London, W.1—Piccadilly entrance. This fitting, by the same firm as BI 26 was specially designed. The panels are of linen faced Rhodac tinted pale peach. The lamps used were 11½ in double ended tubular lamps behind which is a reflector plate cellulose white. The top is enclosed with Perspex. The complete fitting measures 4ft 6 in in length x 18 in in height. Maximum projection is 7½ in.

INDUSTRIAL NOTES

To-day stocks of softwood in this country are estimated to amount to about 700,000 standards, of which about 500,000 standards are in private hands.

Imports in 1952 will include 500,000 standards already contracted for an Government account. Private purchases by the Trade may be restricted to a maximum of 600,000 standards as a means of saving foreign currency.

In 1951 the total value of imported timber of all kinds, including softwood, hardwood and plywood was £220,584,293.

The principal timber imports in total volume during 1951 were—

Softwood — 1,627,350 standards.
Hardwood — 60,070,000 cu. ft.
Plywood — 10,737,417 cu. ft.
Pitwood — 416,975 piled cu. fathoms.

The Hotpoint Electric Appliance Company Ltd. changed their telephone number on February 4, 1952, to Peterborough 5351. The new number is also that of the International Refrigerator Co. Ltd.

Information of use to all concerned with the design of buildings is contained in N.B.S. Bulletin No. 13. "Fire Endurance of Timber Beams and Floors," just published for the D.S.I.R. by H.M.S.O., price 1s., by post 1 ½s.

A new fully developed and tested compressor unit of sturdy and simple design is now in production at The Hymatic Engineering Company Ltd., Redditch, Worcs. The new 100 SAS is said to be eminently suitable for fitting to tractors, cultivators, motor vehicles, machine tools, etc., for spray painting, lime washing, insecticide spraying, pneumatic greasing, tyre inflation, pneumatic braking, the operation of air tools, controls, jigs, fixtures and so on.

Employees of Messrs. John Laing and Son, Ltd., building and civil engineering contractors at Hendon have saved £650,000 in National Savings Certificates since 1940 through the firm's savings group.

Fordham Pressings Ltd., have appointed to the Board of Directors Mr. Leonard William Moritz in place of the late Mr. Charles Henry Parker, who died at Bournemouth two months ago. Mr. Moritz, at present a partner of the Accountancy firm of Cape & Dalgeish, 71 Moorgate, London, E.C.2, will act as financial controller and adviser and also as Chairman to the Board of Directors.

Messrs. Chamberlain Industries Ltd., Industrial Building Contractors and General Engineers of Stoffa Road, Leyton, London, E.10, have appointed Mr. L. B. Smith, as Manager of the Building Division.

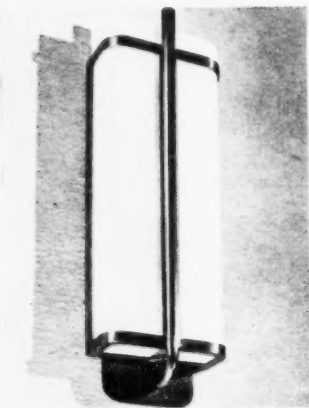
SERVICES LIGHTING.

BI 28

This wall fixture measures 26½ in in height x 9 in in width and projects 4½ in from the wall.

The metal framing is of mild steel with Tellachrome finish.

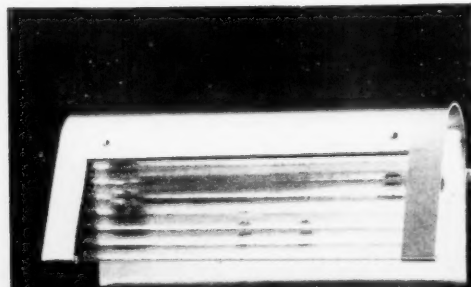
The fitting illustrated was made to order and accommodates 2 15-watt 18 in fluorescent lamps. The glazing is of sandblasted glass.



SERVICES LIGHTING. BI 29

Designed for mirror lighting, and particularly for bathroom mirrors this fitting has a frame of aluminium anodised lime silver containing Reedyte glazing.

Dimensions are: length, 12 in.; height, 5½ in.; projection, 5 in. The price is £2 17s 6d plus 22 per cent P.T. Alternative glazing is possible.



Notes below give basic data of contracts open under locality and authority which are in bold type. References indicate: (a) type of work, (b) address for application. Where no town is stated in the

CONTRACT • NEWS •

OPEN

BUILDING

***BEXLEY B.C.** (a) 15 dwellings, Upton Close Estate. (b) Borough Engineer and Surveyor, West Lodge, Broadway, Bexleyheath. (c) 5gns. (e) March 21. See page 28.

***BEAMINSTER R.C.** (a) 14 houses, Hogshill Mead site. (b) Council's Surveyor, Town Offices. (d) March 1.

***BEDFORDSHIRE STANDING JOINT COMMITTEE.** (a) Police house, with garage and office, at Heath, Reach and Southill. (b) County Architect, Shire Hall, Bedford, stating site. (d) March 3.

***BERKSHIRE C.C.** (a) 4 pairs of houses and 6 garages at Langley Hill Close, Tilehurst. (b) County Architect, Wilton House, Parkside Road, Reading. (c) 2gns. (e) March 15.

***BILLERICAY U.C.** (a) 54 houses in terraces of 6 and 4 on the Vange Estate. (b) Council's Surveyors, Council Offices (stating number of houses for which it is desired to tender). (c) 2gns. (d) March 5.

***BLACKROD U.C.** (a) 30 houses. (b) Messrs. J. C. Prestwich and Sons, Bradshawgate Chambers, Leigh. (c) 2gn cheque, payable to Council. (d) March 3.

***BRIDGNORTH B.C.** (a) Conversion of Castle Hall into Public Hall. (b) Borough Surveyor, College House. (c) 2gns. (e) March 10.

***BRIERLEY HILL U.C.** (a) 104 dwellings in groups on the Swan Lane estate. (b) Council's Architect, Council Offices, Moor Street. (c) 2gns, payable to Council. (d) March 1.

***CARLTON U.C.** (a) (Scheme 62) 20 houses at Thoresby Avenue and (Scheme 63) 32 houses at Cavendish Road. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Council House, Burton Road (stating scheme or schemes). (c) 2gns each contract. (e) March 17.

***CHAPEL-EN-LE-FRITH R.C.** (a) (Group No. 1) 19 houses at Dove Holes, (Group No. 2) 20 houses at Peak Dale and (Group No. 3) 23 houses at Hope. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, 27, Market Street. (e) March 15.

***CHESTER R.C.** (a) 8 houses at Guilden Sutton. (b) T. C. R. Eaton, 16, White Friars. (c) 3gns, payable to Council. (e) March 19.

***DARTFORD B.C.** (a) Lock-up shops with 16 flats above for second portion of main shopping centre (Scheme 2C) at Temple Hill Neighbourhood Unit. (b) Town Clerk, Council Offices, High Street. (c) 2gns. (e) March 24.

***ESSEX C.C.** (a) Contract 2. Workshop block at N.E. Essex Technical College, Colchester (approx. value of contract £110,000). (b) County Architect, County Hall, Chelmsford. (d) March 1, with full details.

address it is the same as the locality given in the heading, (c) deposit, (d) last date for application, (e) last date and time for submission of tenders. Full details of contracts marked ★ are given in the advertisement section.

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EAST RIDING C.C. (a) Secondary school, with caretaker's house and access roads, at Harland Way, Cottingham. (b) County Architect, County Hall, Beverley. (c) 2gns. (e) March 20.

GOSPORT B.C. (a) 38 houses in 9 blocks at Walpole Park, with construction of access roads and sewers. (b) Borough Engineer, Town Hall. (c) 2gns. (e) March 11.

GRANTHAM B.C. (a) (Scheme No. 26) 8 houses and (Scheme No. 27) 24 houses. (b) Borough Engineer, Guildhall. (c) 2gns.

HOOLE U.C. (a) Erection of at least 6 houses, Hoole House estate. (b) Robert Boot, 22, Newgate Street, Chester. (c) 2gns. (e) March 10.

JARROW-ON-TYNE. (a) R.C. school at Alnwick Grove, Jarrow-on-Tyne. (b) Robert Burke, Lambton House, Lambton Road, Jesmond, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 2. (c) 2gns.

KEYNSHAM U.C. (a) 48 houses on the Park Road Estate. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Council Offices. (c) 2gns cheque payable to Council. (e) March 10.

LONDON — BRENTFORD AND CHISWICK B.C. (a) 14 dwellings, Ealing Road, Brentford. (b) Borough Engineer, Town Hall, W.4. (c) 5gns. (e) March 17.

LONDON — STOKE NEWINGTON B.C. (a) Underground reinforced concrete control centre. (b) Borough Engineer, Town Hall, N.16. (c) 3gn cheque payable to Council. (e) March 10.

LONDON — TOTTENHAM B.C. (a) 10 bungalows, Lydford Road, N.15. (b) Borough Engineer, Town Hall, N.15. (c) 2gns. (d) March 10.

N. IRELAND — GOVERNMENT OF NORTHERN IRELAND. (a) Factory extension at Comber Road, Newtownards, Co. Down. (b) Ministry of Finance (Room 103), Law Courts Building, May Street, Belfast. (c) £2. (e) March 7.

N. IRELAND — HILLSBOROUGH R.C. (a) 18 houses, roads and ancillary works at Ravarnet. (b) Messrs. Gamble and Maxwell, 5, University Terrace, Belfast. (c) 5gns. (e) March 11.

N. IRELAND — NORTHERN IRELAND FIRE AUTHORITY. (a) Fire station at Valentia Place, Newcastle. (b) Messrs. Kirk and McClure, 19, Adelaide Street, Belfast. (c) 3gns. (e) March 14.

N. IRELAND — NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING TRUST. (a) 126 dwellings with ancillary works at Carnmoney (Development No. 3), Belfast. (b) Northern Ireland Housing Trust, 12, Hope Street, Belfast. (c) £3. (e) March 12.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE B.C. (a) (1) 74 dwellings, (2) 34, (3) 29 and (4) 45 dwellings, on Section "D" of the Slatford Lane Estate. (b) City Architect, 18, Cloth Market (stating section or sections). (c) March 13.

NEW FOREST R.C. (a) 14 houses, Site No. 58, Totton. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Council Offices, Lyndhurst. (c) 2gns. (e) March 10.

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NEATH B.C. (a) 2 flats at Abbey Road. (b) Borough Engineer, Gwyn Hall. (c) 1gn. (e) March 15.

PLYMOUTH C.C. (a) 7 shops, 9 maisonettes, 2 flats and 9 garages at Ham Drive. (b) City Architect, Seymour Road. (c) 3gns payable to Corporation. (d) March 3.

PORTSMOUTH C.C. (a) 102 houses at Paulsgrove. (b) City Architect, Municipal Offices, 1, Western Parade. (c) 3gns. (d) March 10.

REIGATE B.C. (a) (1) 28 houses, (2) 12 houses, (3) 12 houses and (4) 11 houses, on Part I of the Rushetts Farm Estate. (b) Borough Engineer, Town Hall. (c) 2gns each group. (e) March 13.

SCOTLAND — CORPORATION OF PAISLEY. (a) 24 apartment houses, Hunterhill No. 4 Development. (b) Burgh Engineer, 14, Gilmour Street. (c) March 21.

SHOREHAM-BY-SEA U.C. (a) (Section 1) 32 houses and (Section 2) 16 houses, Hammy Lane Estate. (b) R. Browne, 4, East Street. (c) 3gns to Council's Clerk. Town Hall. (e) March 17.

SOUTH SHIELDS B.C. (a) 124 houses at Auckland Avenue and/or 30 houses at Marsden Road/Lincoln Road. (b) Borough Engineer, Town Hall. (c) 2gns each contract. (e) March 11.

STONE R.C. (a) 8 houses at Brown's Bridge, Slindon, Eccleshall. (b) Messrs. Hollins, Jones and Oldacre, Lloyds Bank Chambers, Newcastle. (c) £2.

STRETTFORD B.C. (a) 22 flats, Moss Park (No. 2) site. (b) Borough Surveyor, Town Hall. (c) 2gns. (e) March 29.

STROOD R.C. (a) 16 houses at Swin-gate, Cliffe. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Council Offices, Frindsbury Hill. (c) 5gns. (e) March 7.

SURBITON (SURREY). (a) Phase I of R.C. primary school at Tolworth. (b) Wilfrid C. Mangan, 2, Ribblesdale Place, Preston, Lancs, immediately.

TAVISTOCK U.C. (a) 22 houses, Greenlands Estate. (b) Messrs. Rossington and Fogden, National Provincial Bank Chambers, Tavistock. (c) 2gns payable to Council. (e) March 12.

WALTON AND WEYBRIDGE U.C. (a) Public conveniences, Walton Lane, Weybridge. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Council Offices, Walton-on-Thames. (e) March 24.

WARE U.C. (a) Public conveniences, etc. King George's Field. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, The Priory. (c) 2gns. (e) March 15.

WEST RIDING C.C. (a) Ambulance depot, Stanley Road, Wakefield. (b) County Architect, Bishopgarth, Westfield Road, Wakefield. (c) 1gn. (e) March 10.

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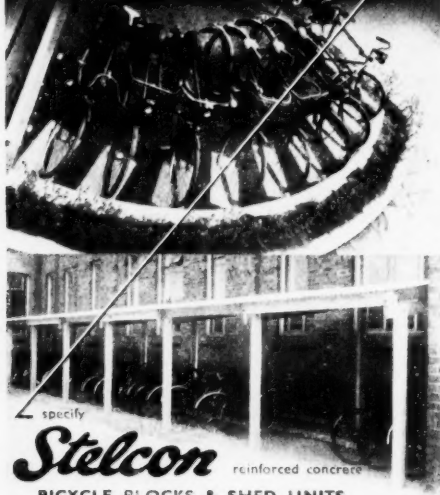
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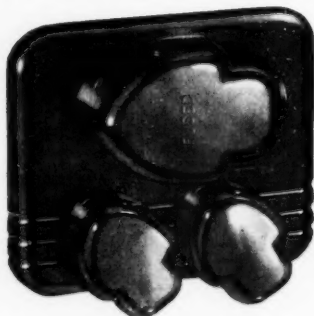
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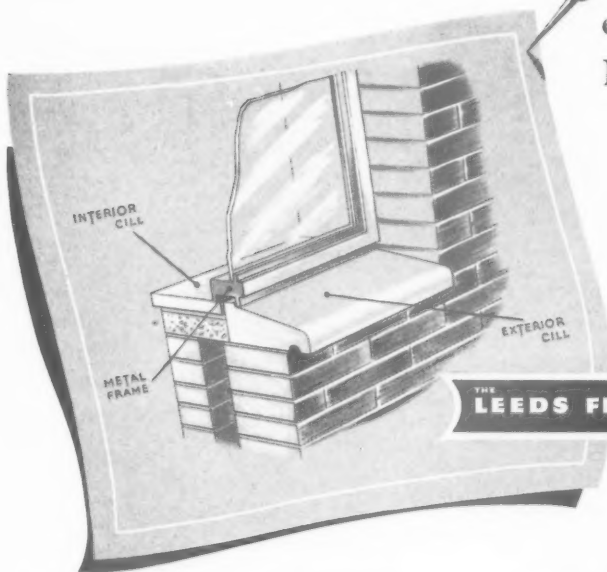
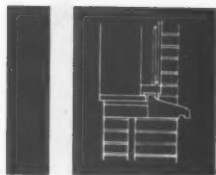
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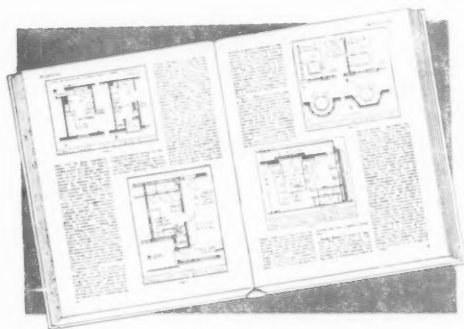
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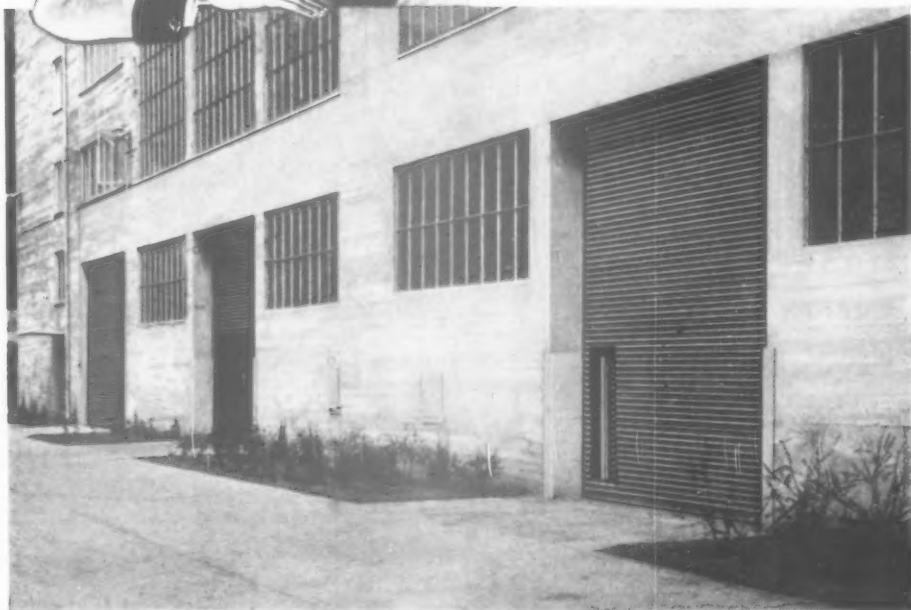
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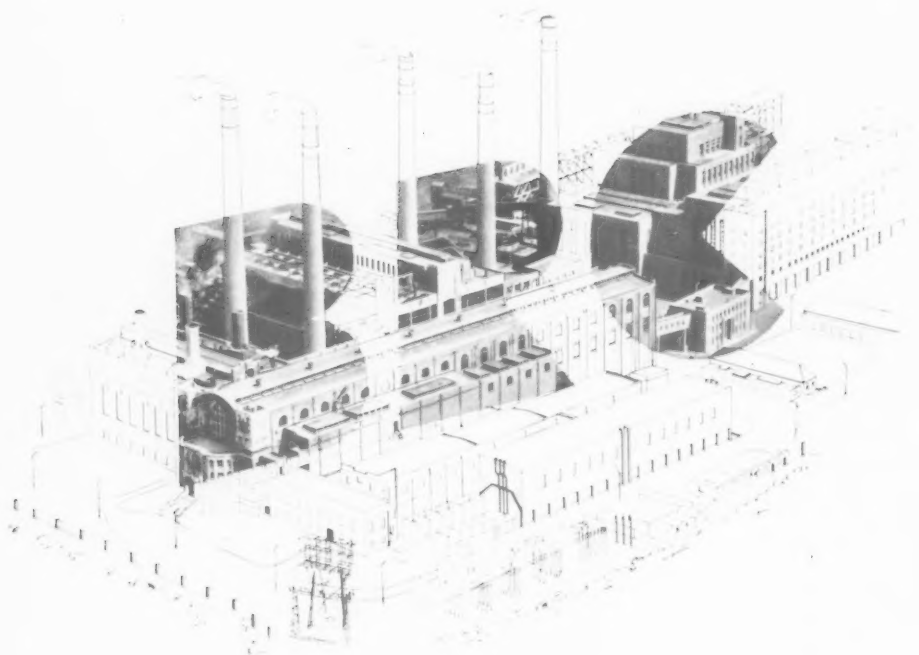
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